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MARCH 2018

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THINKS THE
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FROM THE EDITOR

WE all have that friend who comes back after travelling, telling anyone who will listen to “experience the world and open your mind,” as if stepping on to a foreign patch of dirt will magically open your third eye and induce a state of spiritual awareness and empathy for your fellow man. Meanwhile, you know the only thing your mate spent time opening was cold tinnies. Tss-POP.

But there is something in it, and your best mate who just spent a week making a game out of dodging pedestrians and STIs with a Bintang in hand while flying around the back streets of Kuta on his single gear scooter has returned home happier.

Regardless of what your mate says (anyone who refuses to take off their Bintang singlet cannot be trusted), the benefits of travelling have been documented far and wide. Just ask Ozzie Wright, the man makes a living travelling the globe, surfing waves and making art. Not a bad way to spend your time if you ask us (read his story in Sport). Or make your way to our Q&A with 'gin-trepeneur' Leon Dalloway, owner of Gin Journey.

For the more adventurous of you out there, in this month's Feature we hung out with Manila's nightcrawlers covering President Duterte's ongoing war on drugs. If you're looking for something a little less death and meth, then perhaps you'd be interested in an interview with the iconic voice of Halo's Master Chief, flick to Gaming.

As always, we've got babes galore and so much more. Bon voyage.

NATHAN HARMOND

Editor



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PENTHOUSE

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MILO LIVE!

Milo Yiannopoulos's whirlwind tour of Australia took place in early December, and while he was only in the country for a short time, there's little doubt that his presence left a lasting impression. In a sold-out tour that included five major cities and a brief stint in Parliament House, Milo delivered provocative, entertaining and intelligent talks to thousands of fans across the country. As sponsors of the tour, we had an amazing time travelling alongside Milo as he exploded across the nation and we look forward to doing it all again next year.







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THE DEBRIEF



MEET THE 34-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

WHY VIRGINITY DOESN'T ROCK, SLAVES BEING SOLD FOR
LESS THAN THE COST OF A PLANE TICKET, THE REAL-LIFE
IRON MAN AND A PENIS IN THE SKY...



WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

PORN STAR TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

CONSIDERING America's current president is Donald Trump, the announcement by former porn star Cherie DeVille that she intends to run for president in 2020 comes as no huge surprise.

"I always took it for granted that whether the Republicans or the Democrats won, someone reasonably appropriate was in office even if they weren't my choice," the 39-year-old told *The Daily Beast*. "Until this election cycle I was incredibly disappointed in the political process... Trump basically won because he's a celebrity. It made good television. If Americans are going to vote based on celebrity and scandal, well, I can give them that."

Indeed, if a reality TV personality with zero previous political experience can be voted into office, then why not a porn star with zero previous political experience?

She feels just as qualified, if not more. The physical therapist has firm, well-informed opinions on immigration, education, environmental reform, and how to handle the war on drugs.

But DeVille's resumé might leave potential voters feeling a little awkward, as it includes titles such as *Monster Cock Anal with Cherie DeVille*, *Best Squirting Lesbian Compilation*, and our personal favourite, which also features her press secretary, *Alix Lynx Fucks Cherie DeVille*. Well, at least they won't have to deal with any sex-tape cover-ups...

The rest of her running team is just as colourful and reads like a rap concert mixed with a B-grade celebrity wrestling match. Her running mate is Coolio (yes, *Gangsta's Paradise*), the press secretary Alix Lynx is a porn star herself, and DeVille's head of security is former WWE wrestler Virgil. He and Trump have crossed paths



before, when the 45th President hosted *WrestleMania* in the early 2000s and DeVille's team claims that, "Virgil's familiarity and relationship with Donald Trump can help smooth over the transition process when Cherie DeVille is named President."

If Trump's rise to prominence is anything to go by, DeVille's notoriety working in the adult industry should act as more of an asset than a hindrance. The slogan for her 2020 presidential campaign is "Make America Fucking Awesome Again" and we wish her all the best of luck.



LIBYA'S MODERN-DAY SLAVE TRADE IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL

MEN are being sold as slaves in Libya for less than a cheap plane ticket to your next holiday destination.

An investigation by CNN found humans can be purchased in Libya's thriving slave trade for as little as \$580 each. CNN's footage showed men, mostly from Niger, being auctioned off to local slavers for 600 Libyan *dinars* in what is allegedly just one location in a countrywide operation. Reporter Nima Elbagir, who was operating undercover for obvious reasons, said she saw 12 men auctioned off in a matter of minutes.

The transactions take place in shady, dilapidated buildings; the meetings are secretive and swift, lest local authorities catch them. Buyers bid on slaves like cattle at an auction, then the men are loaded into a truck with their new owners and transported to a location where they will begin their new life as a slave.

Most of the slaves began as hopeful migrants attempting to make their way from Africa to Europe by paying traffickers for passage, however increasing pressure from governments to stop illegal immigrants has seen a surge in the number of desperate men stuck in Libya with few options. With nowhere to go, and no money to support themselves, these men are sold as slaves to the highest bidder by their traffickers.

These findings have been handed over to Libyan authorities, who have promised to launch an investigation.

THIS 34-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN STILL LIVES AT HOME



IN the latest edition of *Virgin Hunters*, we've scoped out a rare specimen by the name of Skippy.

Skippy is a 34-year-old Mormon who lives in his mother's basement. He looks exactly as you'd imagine; overweight, translucent white skin, ginger hair, sporting ill-fitting glasses and a patchy goatee. His shirt actually reads, "Virginity Rocks". He's ticking off literally every stereotype in the book.

And it's not like Skippy isn't having a go. For a virgin in his mid-thirties, he is a ball of sexual energy. In a video titled *The 34-Year-Old Virgin* (not a joke), Skippy takes us on a tour of his house, narrating to the camera in a way that fills the viewer with discomfort. He comes across as the kind of guy you would most likely avoid at a party, as well as the guy most likely to date rape someone.

SKIPPY TAKES US ON A TOUR OF HIS HOUSE, NARRATING TO THE CAMERA IN A WAY THAT FILLS THE VIEWER WITH DISCOMFORT.

At one point, he shows the viewer his homemade T-shirt collection, each one a custom print of his own creation. He prefaces showcasing the shirts with, "Not sure you want to go on a date with me? Would a T-shirt change your mind?" Probably not, mate, but let's see what's on offer.

"I made out with Skippy for three minutes and all I got was this lousy shirt," reads one. Hmm, still not sold on that date. "Make the world a better place... put a kiss on Skippy's face!" says another. Yeah, going to have to pass on that one, Skippy. In fact, we're going to vomit in a bucket. There are ways to make the world a better place that don't involve kissing the skin of a man child who smells like he uses Grandma's moisturiser for aftershave.

However, for a guy that's wearing a "Virginity Rocks" T-shirt, he seems to be trying really hard to get laid. Probably because being a 34-year-old virgin doesn't rock, but points to him for trying to own it.

"The ideal girl isn't thinking that her ideal guy still lives at home in Mum's basement, right?" says Skippy. "But I do."

Good luck Skippy. Something tells us you're going to need it.



RUSSIAN MAN'S BID TO BECOME **NEXT** **VICTIM** OF DARWINISM

IT'S not the first time someone lacking in brain power has injected themselves with dangerous amounts of synthol to increase the size of their muscles and, knowing humanity's proclivity for stupidity, it won't be the last.

Synthol is a "site enhancement oil" that creates the illusion of a more developed muscle. It's used widely yet controversially in bodybuilding to help bring lagging body parts up to scratch ahead of competitions. It has nothing to do with steroids, is completely artificial and is not something you want to inject into your body.

So when Kirill Tereshin, from the city of Pyatigorsk in southwestern Russia, started posting photos of his bizarre synthol-induced body shape online, it was clear that he was in need of some serious medical and psychiatric help. Bragging about his Popeye-like arms, Tereshin, 21, is seen shadow boxing in videos, almost as though he believes they wouldn't be a total hindrance in a scuffle.

Since leaving the army this summer, Tereshin has embarked on a synthol program that saw his biceps grow 25

centimetres in just 10 days. He began by injecting 250ml into his biceps but found that would make them grow by no more than three centimetres, so he increased his dosage to several litres.

Doctors are concerned that injecting the enhancement oil to further develop his 60-centimetre biceps could cause permanent damage.

"He could lose movement in his arms, the muscles could turn into ballast that he won't be able to use to lift things. He could end up disabled," said Dr Yuriy Serebryanskyn of the former soldier.

Professional powerlifter Kirill Sychev agreed: "You can see it in his face, there is something unhealthy about it. This is a person who needs complex medical help. Not just to drain his arms and detox his blood, but also psychiatric help."



THE HUNT FOR WIFE NO. 9

RON Sheppard holds the dubious honour of being Britain's most married man and despite his latest relationship failing, the 69-year-old has declared he's ready to get back on the horse and find wife number nine.

The unlucky-in-love great-grandfather was left broken hearted after his fiancée Cristel Marquez, 28, walked out on him. The retired entertainer flew Marquez out from the Philippines last year and the two spent 12 months living together until she packed her bags and told him she was returning home after her visa expired. Despite a poor track record with his previous eight marriages, optimistic Sheppard had believed Marquez was his "forever wife".

Ron first got married to Margaret in 1966 and had three children with her during their two-year union. Next was Jeanette in 1973 but the marriage only lasted a year. He then wed Lesley in 1976 and they had two boys before separating five years later. Kathy followed in 1982 and they had a daughter, before his longest marriage to Sue, who he wed in 1986 before she threw him out 11 years and two sons later. Then it was Usha in 1999, Wan in 2003 and Weng in 2004 – she lasted until 2015.

It seems Sheppard isn't one to wallow in self-pity though, telling *The Daily Mirror* he's already chatting with a number of women on Facebook and has received messages of support from women in Ghana, Vietnam and the USA.

"I would expect wife number nine shortly at this rate," the optimistic pensioner said. "I just can't fathom what they see in me. Perhaps it's all part and parcel of being internationally notorious."

Sheppard believes the main reason things might not have worked out was due to Marquez's age, telling the *Mirror* he's after, "Somebody that's a little more mature for their age. The younger ones around about 30 are fine. Around 30 is the perfect age."

US NAVY PILOT DRAWS PENIS IN THE SKY

THE US Navy made the news for all the wrong reasons after one of its planes drew a penis in the sky. The crew of a Navy EA-18 Growler warplane – a variant of the F/A-18 warplane – used the condensed air trail from its exhaust to leave a large phallic image projected over the skies of Okanogan County in Washington State.

Navy officials were quick to acknowledge the stunt was from one of their crew, condemning the “obscene image”.

“The actions of this aircrew were wholly unacceptable and antithetical to Navy core values,” Lieutenant Commander Leslie Hubbell, a spokeswoman for the Naval Air Station on Whidbey Island, said in a statement. “We have grounded the aircrew and are conducting a thorough investigation and we will hold those responsible accountable for their actions.”

The Navy apologies for this irresponsible and immature act.”

Despite the disapproving response from the Navy, many onlookers and passers-by saw the lighter side of the prank. Ramone Duran told *The Spokesman-Review* he saw the penis being drawn while running errands. “After it made the circles at the bottom, I knew what it was and starting laughing,” he said.

Other locals took to social media to post photos of the amusing finished image, but not everyone thought it was funny. One lady reached out to local TV station KREM 2 to tell the hosts she was upset at having to explain to her children what the shape in the sky was.

It’s not the first time this has happened this year, with an RAF fighter pilot drawing a 56-kilometre long penis over the skies of Lincolnshire, England.



SCIENTISTS BEAM ELECTRONIC TUNES INTO SPACE FOR ALIEN ENJOYMENT

AS the human race continues its quest to find alien life forms, US-based research organisation Messaging Extraterrestrial Intelligence International (METI) has taken the innovative approach of beaming electronic music into the solar system in hopes of getting a reply.

The splinter group of scientists from the Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) are on a mission to find ET, but instead of combing the skies for signals or radio waves they believe sending transmissions into space is the best way to get attention. Why music?

“The movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* suggested that music is a natural universal language. That really makes sense,” METI president Doug Vakoch said. “Music at its core can be described in terms of mathematics and physics.” He believes other life forms would also understand these fundamental components governing the universe, making music the ideal form of communication.

Collaborating with the Spanish electronic music festival Sonar, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC), METI has chosen 33 10-second music samples to be transmitted some 112 trillion kilometres into space. The messages have been coded and contain a tutorial so if any extraterrestrials receive them they can understand how to listen to the tunes.

Of course, not everyone is happy about what METI are doing. Stephen Hawking has previously warned of the dangers of sending unsolicited material into space and SETI researcher Dan Werthimer agrees. “It’s like shouting in a forest before you know if there are tigers, lions, and bears or other dangerous animals there,” he told *New Scientist*. “Ninety-eight per cent of astronomers and SETI researchers, including myself, think that METI is potentially dangerous, and not a good idea.”

Here’s hoping any aliens receiving these messages are fans of Kate Tempest and Francisco López, or things might not turn out the way METI intended.





DEMONIC BABY HAUNTS MAN'S APARTMENT



NEW YORK resident Adam Ellis claims a deformed baby is haunting his apartment – and he has the photos to prove it.

Ellis first began recounting his paranormal experiences on Twitter, where he described horrifyingly vivid dreams of a small child with a partially caved-in head sitting on a green rocking chair in his room. The situation, Ellis claims, was made all the more terrifying by the fact that the infant was trying to kill him.

He discovered the identity of the child in another dream, in which he met a young girl in a library who told Ellis his name was “Dear David”.

“He’s dead. He only appears at midnight, and you can ask him two questions if you say ‘Dear David’ first,” tweeted Ellis. “But never try to ask him a third question, or he’ll kill you.”

A sensible person might start dialling the local exorcist at this point, but Ellis pushed on, determined to find out more about the demon baby who had taken up residence in his apartment.

He asked ‘David’ how he died and learnt that someone had accidentally pushed a shelf on his head in a store. After he asked a third question, David jumped out of the rocking chair and, like a tiny two-year-old Freddy Krueger, attempted to kill Ellis in the dream.

What does one do when an evil demon baby won’t stop trying to kill you in your sleep? You move house.



REAL LIFE IRON MAN BREAKS WORLD RECORD

TONY Stark is a billionaire, playboy, inventor and genius with just enough rakish charm and drunken panache to make him one of the most entertaining and popular comic book superheroes of the past decade.

So when we heard that Richard Browning, a British inventor and entrepreneur dubbed “the real-life Iron Man”, had constructed his own operational version of the iconic Iron Man suit, we were pretty damn excited.

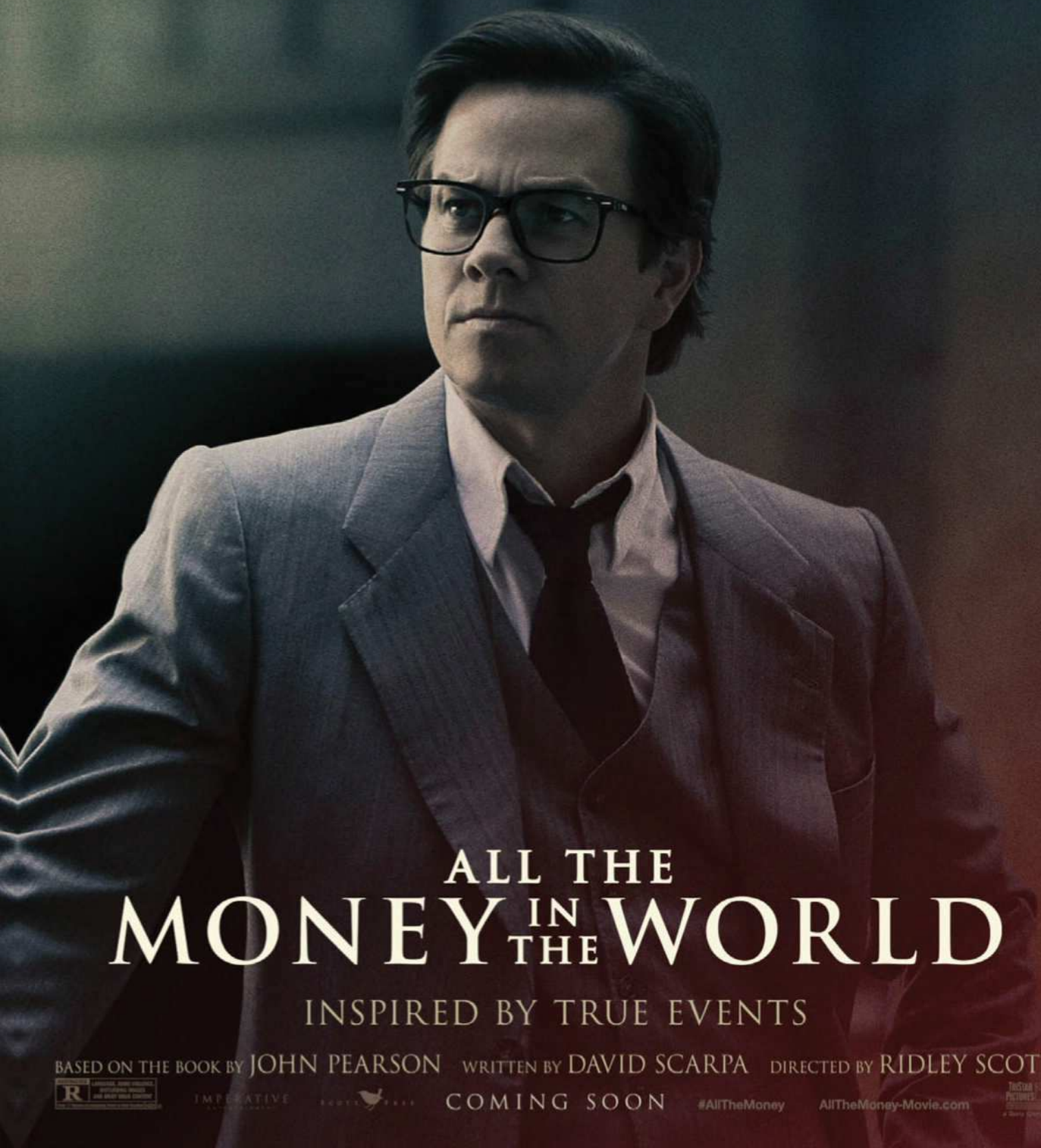
While it may have been lacking in the artillery department (there were no repulsor beams or explosive projectiles built into the suit, unfortunately), Browning was definitely a sight to behold as he took off, strapped into an ultra-light 45-kilogram exoskeleton powered by six gas turbines, four mounted on the arms and two on the hips.

The Guinness World Record that Browning was looking to set was the fastest speed in a body-controlled jet-engine power suit, which he already unofficially held at 48 kilometres per hour. On this attempt, the self-made Iron Man cruised above a lake in Reading, England at a speed of 51 kilometres per hour.

The suit, which Browning emphasises is still in its nascent stages, is the culmination of three years of work and has already attracted the attention of search-and-rescue agencies, Hollywood producers and various military organisations.

Unfortunately, it will still be some time before we see consumer-level Iron Man suits, which, judging by how people drive plain old cars in Sydney, is probably for the best. Or, as Browning puts it, “I don’t think anybody’s going to go down to Walmart or take the kids to school in any of this stuff for a while.”

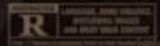
"We have to be willing
to walk away."



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ROGUE SCIENTIST EDITS OWN DNA TO BECOME SUPERHUMAN

IT sounds like something from a Philip K. Dick story but a biochemist in America has successfully edited his own DNA.

Biochemist and former NASA employee Josiah Zayner is the first person known to have changed his DNA with CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeat), a powerful tool that allows the altering of human genes.

Zayner, who is recognised as one of the world's foremost biohackers, declared that, "This is the first time in history that we are no longer slaves to our genetics."

Zayner live streamed himself removing myostatin – a protein that inhibits muscle growth – from his own DNA by injecting manipulated DNA into his arm. The foreign DNA contained a protein and a guide that will target and delete the myostatin, and he believes he should see increased muscle growth in the area within months.

Although this type of technology is strictly regulated in the US and UK, it's not illegal to alter your DNA, and Zayner's firm just so happens to sell DIY gene-editing kits.

As expected, there has been an outcry from the scientific community who are aghast at what Zayner is doing. CRISPR researcher Robin Lovell-Badge of London's Francis Crick Institute told *New Scientist* Zayner is "foolish," while University of Manchester bioethicist John Harris is worried about potential side effects of personal DNA editing, although he admitted, "there's a long history of scientists experimenting on themselves."

Scientists are hopeful DNA editing will help with curing genetic disorders and extending human life expectancy, but the majority are in agreement this should be done under supervision in labs with the correct research tools and equipment, and not by rogue biohackers looking to make a quick buck.

MAN PUTS PADLOCK DOWN PENIS IN WEIRD SEX GAME

THE thought of putting anything into your penis is enough to make most men's eyes water, but for one 31-year-old it was too hard to resist. The unnamed Chinese man was apparently playing with his genitals when he decided it would be a turn-on if he jammed a small padlock inside his erect member.

The man told doctors he inserted the lock into his urethra and continued to shove it further down until it reached his bladder and got stuck. He was rushed to hospital where X-rays revealed the extraordinary image of the padlock in the man's bladder, with doctors performing various examinations before deciding surgery was the only way to extract the padlock. The surgery reportedly involved cutting a small hole in his bladder to release the lock, and it's not known if there will be any long-term side effects from the incident.

This isn't the first strange sexual incident to be reported in China this year – another man was admitted to hospital a few months ago after inserting rusty needles into his member. The 35-year-old claimed he was seeking sexual gratification and thought the best way to do so was to stick 15 needles into his penis over a period of time.

It wasn't until the man felt intense pain and saw blood while urinating that he decided to seek medical attention, requiring surgery to remove the four-inch needles. Doctor Cao Zhiqiang, who took part in the operation, said at the time, "Because of the patient's... hobby, he inserted 15 needles from the tip of his penis into his urethra over the course of a year. Had we waited longer, the needles might have moved further up into his bladder, which would have been very troublesome."

There's a lesson to be learnt from all this and it's real simple: don't stick anything into your penis.



FLORIDA MAN'S WILLY GIVES RESIDENTS A SHOCK

FLORIDA is clearly the top destination for the deranged and mentally unstable citizens of the United States of America. It might be the heat, the constant threat that a sewer gator will find its way into your latrine or the large swathes of dotty elderly residents, but not a week passes without an inexplicable or insane news story out of the Orange State. Just Google "Florida Man" – there are whole sites dedicated to the exploits of the strange inhabitants of the United States' panhandle.

Sexual deviance and degenerate behaviour is a common theme in Florida Man stories and this month's star, a man by the name of Kurt Allen Jenkins, is no exception. The 56-year-old was spotted cruising about in his Toyota Corolla in a coastal area in the south of the state, completely naked, as is his God-given right as a citizen of the Land of the Free, and exposing himself to passers-by, some of whom were children. That's bad enough, but to make it stranger, it turned out he wasn't actually entirely naked. Rather, it appeared that Jenkins had attached a series of wires and an electronic device to his penis. Oh, what a feeling.

After receiving multiple reports of indecent exposure and sexual harassment, local police found Jenkins and stopped his car. He exited the vehicle wearing nothing but a small pair of red shorts (as is his God-given right), and was tackled by one of the officers with what was described in the police report as a "straight arm bar takedown" after he refused to comply with orders that he get on the ground. You have to love America – the only country where a cop can subdue a potential threat using a technique straight from the repertoire of a WWE wrestler.

Jenkins was pretty fucked up after that can of whoop-ass was opened, suffering some fairly serious facial bruising. But, you know, maybe don't strap electronic devices to your dick and go around showing it to people. If you ever have the urge to try something like this, please stay in your mother's basement and conduct your weird-arse experiments there.

GET THE PICTURE

FOR all the exciting and adventurous parts of travel, eating aeroplane food definitely doesn't make the top of the itinerary. That's why this Air Hollywood restaurant in Los Angeles, which is modelled on Pan Am's very first Boeing 747, is such an unusual concept. For \$300 'passengers' are given boarding passes, ticket jackets and first class carry-on tags all in the style of the airline's golden age. They are then escorted into the 'Clipper Club' where a five course meal is served by air hostesses wearing iconic 1970s uniforms. Image Credit: Air Hollywood







HOT SHOT

NICOLE THORNE

@nicolethorne

WE could talk about our favourite travel destinations all day long with Nicole (she loves Rome). She has a healthy dose of wanderlust and a yearning to explore the world and its many landmarks. Although already having ticked plenty off the bucket-list, she's the first to tell us that there's always more to see.

Photographer: Jackson Heeley

THE *Benefits* OF TRAVELLING

CAREER

91%

of employers recognise the benefits of studying abroad. Careers that can benefit from travelling include aid workers, teachers, tradies and, of course, tour guides

WELLBEING

73%

of HR professionals agree that a constructive gap year is worthwhile. Travelling can also improve a person's immune system and increase life expectancy

HEALTH

75%

of executives believe travel is important to prevent burnout. The top three healthiest nations are Singapore, Italy and Australia

EDUCATION

66%

of students who travel overseas achieve higher degrees. London has the highest number of international students with a massive 99,360

LOVE

58%

of travellers have experienced a holiday romance, with Paris, London and New York being rated as the most popular cities to find love

RELATIONSHIPS

83%

of couples say their relationship is still romantic due to travelling abroad. The top five most romantic nations are Argentina, France, Italy and Brazil, with Spain coming in at number one



MAN OF THE MOMENT

JORDAN BELFORT

AT the height of his career in the early 90s, Jordan Belfort had it all. By his late twenties he was a Wall Street multimillionaire, living like a king and partying like a rock star. His stockbroking firm Stratton Oakmont was bankrolling a lifestyle that would one day be immortalised by Leonardo DiCaprio in Martin Scorsese's *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

The truth probably isn't far from the on-screen depiction – he and his cohorts amassed millions of dollars with their underhand “pump and dump” schemes, which involve hyping up a stock until the price rises, then selling it quickly to make a profit at the expense of other investors.

Belfort was born to sell. During the summer after he graduated from high school he and his friend saved \$20,000 selling iced water from Styrofoam coolers to people at the local beach. Belfort had found his niche: “I’m one of those natural born salesmen who can sell ice to an Eskimo, oil to an Arab, pork to a rabbi, or anything else you can think of.”

Fast-forward a few years and his résumé reads like that of an industry veteran. He’d filed for bankruptcy by the age of 24; he was laid off from a stockbroking firm due to the Black Monday stock market crash of 1987; and finally he bought Stratton Oakmont, an “over-the-counter” brokerage house on Long Island that would go on to make him infamous.

It was depicted in *The Wolf of Wall Street* as a “boiler room” – industry slang for a dodgy call centre that sells questionable investments by telephone. The name references the working environment you can expect to find inside these buildings: workers lined up side by side in a small room,

partaking in high-pressure work demanding results. The heat is constantly on.

But for all the glitz and glamour that was depicted in Scorsese's film, Belfort was a real-life scam artist who made a living by lying. It wasn't long before he was targeted by law enforcement officials, and sentenced to a four-year jail term. The “Wolf of Wall Street” had finally been tamed.

Belfort served 22 months of the four-year term in exchange for a plea deal with the FBI over his pump-and-dump scams – which led to investor losses of approximately US\$200 million. Belfort was ordered to pay back US\$110.4 million that he'd swindled from stock buyers.

It's no small feat to become the most successful salesman to ever grace Wall Street, yet Belfort soared to the highest financial heights, earning more than US\$50 million a year – a feat that earned him the nickname “The Wolf of Wall Street.”

Perhaps it was kismet, but Belfort shared a jail cube with Tommy Chong while serving his sentence, and Chong encouraged him to write about his experiences as a stockbroker. From a high-flying stockbroker who conned his way to earning hundreds of millions in the 1990s, to having his antics immortalised by Leonardo DiCaprio, Belfort has lived a life some of us can only dream of.

The step-by-step sales and persuasion system that made Belfort his millions has never been revealed – until now. His new book, *Way of the Wolf: Straight Line Selling: Master the Art of Persuasion, Influence, and Success* is available through Hachette Australia (paperback \$29.99, ebook \$16.99). Read it and weep. **1**

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HEROIN TOWN

LOUIS Theroux is in the back of a car with two heroin addicts and a dealer, driving to a trap house. They pull up at a run-down brick bungalow in Huntington, West Virginia. "It looks like it needs an extreme makeover," says Louis. His comment provides some comic relief before they go inside and the two women score drugs to inject. "I'll be 26 in three months and I've used since I was 12," says Betty. Sadly, her experience is probably less tragic than the other woman, Katillia, who's only staying with her abusive boyfriend because he supplies her with smack.

With a name like *Heroin Town*, this documentary was always going to be grim and confronting. But it's the access and intimacy between the host and the subjects that take it beyond an informative doco and turn it into a deeply compelling narrative. Intensely personal, it rouses a real sense of empathy for the people involved.

Love him or hate him, Louis has carved out a niche when it comes to talking to people about the things most others wouldn't want to talk about. The documentary maker nails the awkwardly-posh-yet-endearingly-nerdy persona. As an Oxford-educated British guy who's pushing 50, he still manages to keep his finger on the pulse of today's biggest issues, from heroin addiction to Scientology and porn.

Louis gained notoriety in the late '90s with his show *Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends*, in which he interacted with a selection of society's lesser-known subcultures, including white supremacists, porn stars and wrestlers. He explained that part of the show's appeal was the juxtaposition between him, a middle-class British nerd, and them. "I don't have to play up that stuff. I'm not a matinee idol disguised as a nerd," said Louis, who insisted he was himself on camera.

By 2015, when *My Scientology Movie* came out, some began to question the authenticity of Louis's on-screen persona. There were a few moments that felt as if he didn't respect his chief interviewee, Marty Rathbun, who was a former member of the church. Louis's deadpan expression and simple, repetitive line of questioning appeared a little callous and manipulative. You sensed that, rather than his usual curiosity, he was pushing Marty to his limits. Last October, Louis admitted to *VICE* that his on-screen personality is "at least a little bit" of an act. This isn't really surprising; it's just a different line to the one he was using back in the *Weird Weekends* days.

Whether Louis's on-screen identity is authentic or fabricated, *Heroin Town* presents a sad and confronting reality. It's an investigation into Huntington, where one in four of the city's 49,000 inhabitants have an opiate addiction, and one in ten babies are born with a drug dependency. Louis goes deep, chatting to medical professionals, experts and addicts, even managing to be at the scene of an overdose. And unlike in *My Scientology Movie*, he doesn't push any of his interviewees beyond their limits. Probably because the subject matter is confronting enough. **1**



MUST-WATCH LOUIS

WEIRD WEEKENDS: PORN (1998)

Louis took a behind-the-scenes look at the Hollywood porn industry and, to get a full insight, even starred as an extra in a porn film himself.

ALBUMS RECORDED IN FARAWAY PLACES

IN February 1968, The Beatles left England for a trip to India. The plan was to live in an ashram and learn about transcendental meditation. "We have all the money you could ever dream of. We have all the fame you could ever wish for. But it isn't love. It isn't health. It isn't peace inside, is it?" George Harrison said. In other words, they wanted a change of surroundings and to do things a bit differently. The result was *The White Album*, now considered one of the best albums of all time.

Over the years, countless bands have experimented with similar tactics to record albums. And while there are loads of tired clichés about how travelling enriches our lives, there are also plenty of examples of great albums that were recorded in faraway nooks of the world.

Blur, *The Magic Whip* (2015) – Hong Kong

Blur burst onto the British scene in the late '80s, helping to define the genre of Britpop. By 2000, it appeared they'd done it all: they headlined Glastonbury Festival, had four number-one albums in the UK and cracked the American market. Thirteen years later, after they'd broken up and frontman Damon Albarn had sold more than 15 million Gorillaz albums, they re-formed. After a festival gig in Japan was cancelled, the band was stranded in the metropolis of Hong Kong for five days and recorded what would become their first studio album in 12 years, *The Magic Whip*. The result is a very urban, beautifully liminal album, with references to Asian culture. This was the point where most bands would have quietly faded into history and been forgotten about, but Blur managed a spontaneous comeback. And people loved it.

Radiohead, *A Moon Shaped Pool* (2016) – France

Creatively speaking, a lot has happened in France. Back in the 1920s, authors such as Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald brushed shoulders with the likes of Picasso and Gertrude Stein in Paris. Almost a hundred years later, Radiohead added a little bit of their own personal flavour to France's artistic history, when they travelled to Saint-Rémy-de-Provence to record *A Moon Shaped Pool*. The small, provincial village is nestled at the foot of the Alpilles mountains in southern France.

But this idyllic spot didn't necessarily lift the band's spirits. As you might expect from Radiohead, the album is a dark, experimental epic that's marred by personal tragedies. Thom Yorke was going through a break-up and long-time producer Nigel Godrich's father died in the middle of recording the album. According to Thom, it progressed in "fits and starts" and there was no rehearsal. "We just went straight into recording ... The sound emerged as we recorded," he said.

Kanye West, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* (2010) – Hawaii

Love him or hate him, Kanye West has a fascinating approach to his work. On one hand, he's a symbol for ridiculous indulgence; on the other, he's extremely dedicated to his craft, and almost every project is wildly successful. *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, Kanye's Grammy-winning fifth album, is a perfect example of this dichotomy.

Kanye primarily recorded the album in Honolulu, during what was described as a "self-imposed exile". He didn't spend a single night in the glass-windowed mansion he rented, instead choosing to take 90-minute power naps on the studio couch. And while a steady stream of celebrities were flying in and out to make cameos on the album, Kanye enforced a "no tweeting, no talking and no emailing" rule. **1**



MASTER CHIEF SPEAKS

WE SPEAK TO THE VOICE BEHIND ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS OF THE PAST DECADE.

YOU may not recognise Steve Downes' face, but you'll probably know his voice as that of Master Chief, the protagonist of the epic game universe *Halo*. Master Chief is the only gaming character on Steve Downes' resumé, but the US radio personality has been bringing the Xbox brand's de facto mascot to life since the first *Halo* game in 2001. We caught up with Downes in Adelaide to talk about his famous voice and the man behind the mask.

What did your life look like before Master Chief?

I started in radio in 1969, fell in love with it, and decided to make it my career. I moved to Los Angeles in the late 70s and was there for the better part of 15 years. I was a disc jockey but I also became interested in the production side, producing commercials, concert spots, that sort of thing. Eventually, I found that I became a better voice talent than producer, so that kind of took over.

An side arm of that was doing voice work – mostly commercials – and Los Angeles was the perfect place to nurture that. I had a dual path – I was on the air doing radio and was voice acting as well. I moved to Chicago in 1997 and that's where I met Marty O'Donnell, one of the original Bungie guys. He cast all the voices for *Halo* and wrote and performed much of the music. He used to listen to me on the radio all the time and when it came to finding

never be decent. This is not my skill. You have to accept whatever limitations you have!

Was the transition from Bungie to 343 Industries, the current developer of *Halo*, a big deal?

It was. I'm pretty sure their initial feeling was that they were going to recast Jen [Taylor] and me. They were going to have a different Cortana and a different guy doing Master Chief. What happened, as I understand it, is that the game was well into development and the other people they had cast in those roles had done their lines. They beta tested the games, and the testers said 'That's not Master Chief and that's not Cortana. They look like them, but they don't sound like them'. They didn't like that. God bless the fans!

You know, after *Halo 1*, after the success they had, they considered recasting with celebrities in those roles. That's what was being done in other games. Fortunately for me, they eventually said, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We have a very successful game here, why change things that people already like?' Part of their thinking was that Master Chief was going to be a bigger character, and could I carry that water? Did I, as an actor, have what that took? Maybe I'm just a one-trick pony. So when I came in I knew what was at stake. I read a part from near the end of the game, where

I THINK THAT'S PART OF THE CHARACTER'S APPEAL – HE'S WHOEVER YOU WANT HIM TO BE. IF YOU WANT HIM TO BE YOU, HE CAN BE.

the voice for Master Chief, he called me and said, "Would you come in and do this?"

It's the only voiceover job I never auditioned for. You always audition and if you're lucky, one time out of 100 maybe, you'll get the gig. The role of Master Chief, which ended up being the biggest role of my life, is the one I didn't audition for. Marty changed my life in a way I couldn't have possibly imagined at the time.

When you started working on the original *Halo*, did you foresee what it would become?

No. And not only did I not have any idea, Bungie didn't have any idea; we were all caught off-guard. Not only did the game do well, it changed the business. It's one thing to have a successful game, it's another to have one that's a paradigm shifter, and *Halo* was that. It made Xbox what Xbox became. I think it's one of the first that caused the whole industry to be taken seriously.

Do you play games yourself?

No, I don't. I've tried. When *Halo 2* came out, I decided I really should try to learn that part of it. That's not what attracted me in the first place – what attracted me was the world and characters. But I thought 'You should play'. And I was so bad at it. I thought 'In my position, I have to be at least adequate if I'm going to play it because people will want to play it with you.' But I knew I would

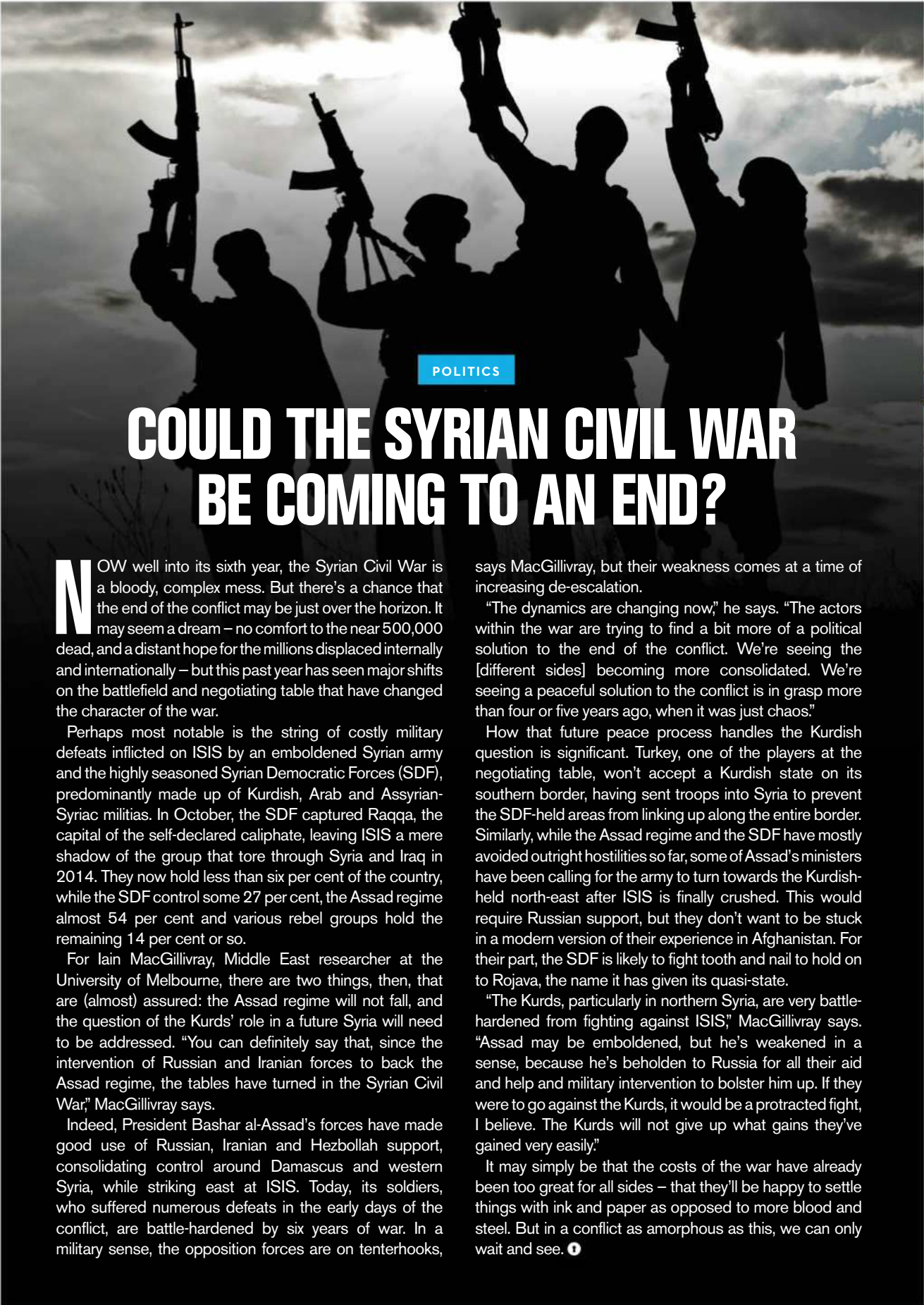
Master Chief has to be emotive and, fortunately, they liked it.

Halo is the only videogame series you've been in. Why is that?

I've auditioned for some others. If I had a nickel for every time I've auditioned for a *Star Wars* character I'd be a rich man, but I've never booked any of them. A lot of voice actors have a multitude of voices they can go to, but I'm not that guy. I have a little bit of range, but Master Chief is right in my wheelhouse. To go to some other place is not really in my skillset. He's such an iconic character and because I can't do a character that sounds very different from him, I'm sort of typecast as 'the Master Chief guy'. That's my 'problem'. The good news is that if I'm going to be stuck with one character, I'm happy with Master Chief.

If you take off Master Chief's helmet, is that your head underneath?

One of the best things about Master Chief is that you never see his face. If you look into his visor, you see your own reflection. I think that's part of the character's appeal – he's whoever you want him to be. If you want him to be you, he can be. When you're playing the game, you are Master Chief. Why give him a face you didn't choose? So when people ask if they're going to let him take his helmet off, I always say 'I hope not'. **1**



POLITICS

COULD THE SYRIAN CIVIL WAR BE COMING TO AN END?

NOW well into its sixth year, the Syrian Civil War is a bloody, complex mess. But there's a chance that the end of the conflict may be just over the horizon. It may seem a dream – no comfort to the near 500,000 dead, and a distant hope for the millions displaced internally and internationally – but this past year has seen major shifts on the battlefield and negotiating table that have changed the character of the war.

Perhaps most notable is the string of costly military defeats inflicted on ISIS by an emboldened Syrian army and the highly seasoned Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), predominantly made up of Kurdish, Arab and Assyrian-Syriac militias. In October, the SDF captured Raqqa, the capital of the self-declared caliphate, leaving ISIS a mere shadow of the group that tore through Syria and Iraq in 2014. They now hold less than six per cent of the country, while the SDF control some 27 per cent, the Assad regime almost 54 per cent and various rebel groups hold the remaining 14 per cent or so.

For Iain MacGillivray, Middle East researcher at the University of Melbourne, there are two things, then, that are (almost) assured: the Assad regime will not fall, and the question of the Kurds' role in a future Syria will need to be addressed. "You can definitely say that, since the intervention of Russian and Iranian forces to back the Assad regime, the tables have turned in the Syrian Civil War," MacGillivray says.

Indeed, President Bashar al-Assad's forces have made good use of Russian, Iranian and Hezbollah support, consolidating control around Damascus and western Syria, while striking east at ISIS. Today, its soldiers, who suffered numerous defeats in the early days of the conflict, are battle-hardened by six years of war. In a military sense, the opposition forces are on tenterhooks,

says MacGillivray, but their weakness comes at a time of increasing de-escalation.

"The dynamics are changing now," he says. "The actors within the war are trying to find a bit more of a political solution to the end of the conflict. We're seeing the [different sides] becoming more consolidated. We're seeing a peaceful solution to the conflict is in grasp more than four or five years ago, when it was just chaos."

How that future peace process handles the Kurdish question is significant. Turkey, one of the players at the negotiating table, won't accept a Kurdish state on its southern border, having sent troops into Syria to prevent the SDF-held areas from linking up along the entire border. Similarly, while the Assad regime and the SDF have mostly avoided outright hostilities so far, some of Assad's ministers have been calling for the army to turn towards the Kurdish-held north-east after ISIS is finally crushed. This would require Russian support, but they don't want to be stuck in a modern version of their experience in Afghanistan. For their part, the SDF is likely to fight tooth and nail to hold on to Rojava, the name it has given its quasi-state.

"The Kurds, particularly in northern Syria, are very battle-hardened from fighting against ISIS," MacGillivray says. "Assad may be emboldened, but he's weakened in a sense, because he's beholden to Russia for all their aid and help and military intervention to bolster him up. If they were to go against the Kurds, it would be a protracted fight, I believe. The Kurds will not give up what gains they've gained very easily."

It may simply be that the costs of the war have already been too great for all sides – that they'll be happy to settle things with ink and paper as opposed to more blood and steel. But in a conflict as amorphous as this, we can only wait and see. 

BUSTED

MILE HIGH CLUB MEMBERSHIP DENIED



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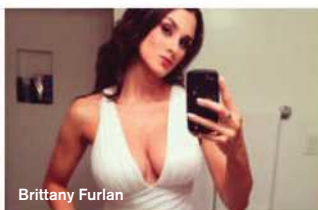
Welcome aboard as we get the hottest tips from our air-hostess friends on how to get your Mile High membership.

» “On the 757-300 there’s an ‘extended cabin’, the lavatories are to the front of that. The galley all the way in the back doesn’t get much action. Do with that information what you will...” – ‘L’ from an Aussie airline

» “The middle lavatories on a long-haul international flight are the best. Half of us are on break and the other half are in the aisle. It’s dark and most passengers are sleeping.” – ‘M’ from a US airline



Lord Derby



Brittany Furlan



SINCE it’s the Travel Issue this month, we thought we’d pay tribute to one of the raunchiest ‘bucket-list’ items for the seasoned flyer: the Mile High Club. Maybe it’s the turbulence, maybe it’s the engine vibrations, maybe it’s the fear of going up in flames – whatever it is, there’s something about being in the sky that gets some of us itching for a dose of high-flying action.

It’ll probably come as no surprise that randy aerial acrobatics have been going on since the beginning of air travel. Way back in 1785, only two years after brothers Joseph Michael and Jaques-Etienne Montgolfier floated the first hot-air balloon, a reference to getting it on off the ground was made in a betting book at London gentleman’s club, Brooks. The entry tells of a wager between two ridiculously British-sounding aristocrats, Lord Cholmondeley and Lord Derby, with the former promising to pay the latter 500 guineas if he could manage to get himself into a lady’s knickerbockers on a balloon while “one thousand yards from Earth”.

And pretty much ever since, adventurous travellers looking for some extra in-flight entertainment have been applying for memberships to aviation’s only X-rated club.

As with anything even slightly risqué, part of the thrill is the risk of getting caught in the act. And for all those stealthy seducers who get away with it, there are just as many who’ve been totally busted while trying.

A few months back Tommy-Lee, famous for banging Pamela Anderson and making celebrity sex-tapes a thing was caught coming out of an American Airlines cubicle with girlfriend Brittany Furlan after a good 20 minutes. Coincidentally – or perhaps not – one of the two films his girlfriend has starred in was called *How to Have Sex on a Plane*. As for the Mötley Crüe drummer, seems he’s got a thing for transport debauchery – that infamous dalliance with Pam happened on a boat, after all. It’s not unusual for elderly or disabled flyers to be accompanied for bathroom breaks and while Tommy’s getting a bit long in the tooth, it’s safe to assume Furlan wasn’t wiping his arse. Though it was obvious to anyone with half a functioning brain what went down, no complaints were filed and the airline reportedly took no issue with the flying fling since there’s no policy disallowing two people from using the lavatory at the same time.

More recently, a pair of strangers found their 15 minutes when they tried to get their membership on a Delta flight from LA to Detroit. The unnamed pair, who’d only just met on the plane, were busted enjoying oral sex in the high skies. Unlike their celeb counterparts, the randy plane passengers didn’t have the foresight to smuggle themselves into the tiny toilet à la Tommy and Brittany, and instead did the deed right there in their seats. Not that we’re judging. The FBI did, however... as the encounter took place in the air, it officially falls into US federal jurisdiction and, while there’s no specific law prohibiting sex on a plane, the feds say that the frisky duo could face charges of misdemeanour or felony. **1**

03/18

MIAMI NICE LORENZO BOTERO

I MET Cherie at her room in the Diplomat Hotel in North Miami shortly after sunrise. I brought a vintage film camera with me, as well as some cool new shades from Pacifico Optical (see page 121). Most of the shots were from the balcony in her hotel room, but we also managed to get some quiet time by the pool and take advantage of the light and cold weather that morning.

MODEL: CHERIE NOEL













TRIPLE DISTILLED
VODKA

WILD ROSE
GIN

BARREL AGED
VODKA

“Pour it again, Sam”



Spirits inspired by the charm and romance of Casablanca.



INTERVIEW

AGENT PROVOCATEUR

CAMILLE PAGLIA HAS MADE A NAME FOR HERSELF
AS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST INTERESTING PUBLIC
INTELLECTUALS. WE TALK ABOUT SEX, GENDER AND
WHY SHE THINKS THE END IS NEAR.
INTERVIEW BY **MISH BARBER-WAY**

BACK in the 90s, cultural critic and best-selling author Camille Paglia was slated to interview Madonna for a *Penthouse* story. Paglia – who had championed the iconoclastic entertainer when the media saw her as a mere “pop tart” – was eager for the assignment. There had been numerous attempts to get the two provocative women together, with both HBO and *Esquire* taking their shots. But there was a problem. Madonna was uneasy.

“You know who I blame?” says Paglia when I get her on the phone. “Kurt Loder. Remember him from MTV? He was a nice guy, but he is the one who caused this.” The author dishes the dirt. Apparently, Loder had asked Madonna if she’d read Paglia’s hugely popular, brainy and enormous 1990 book *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence From Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson*. It’s a 712-page swan dive into art, religion, literature, philosophy, gender differences and much more. The singer hadn’t read this pioneering work and apparently felt that would put her at a disadvantage.

“I would never expect Madonna to read my book!” Paglia exclaims. “I’m not some Harvard elitist who would challenge her with literature. I feel subordinate to the artist!”

Brilliant and inflammatory, Paglia has devoted her career to art and the artist through a blaze of dissension. In the wake of *Sexual Personae*, she became a media sensation for her tireless, very public resistance to political correctness, along with her libertarian individualism and dissident views on feminism. Attacked from multiple quarters, she never backed down in the slightest, continuing to advocate for a pro-sex, pro-pornography, pro-art, and pro-free speech agenda.

Today, at seventy, Paglia’s lost none of her fire. Her latest book, *Free Women, Free Men: Sex, Gender, Feminism*, caused a ruckus – and that was fine by her. A humanities and media studies professor at Philadelphia’s University of the Arts, Paglia, when not teaching, speaking and training her penetrating gaze on today’s world, is writing her eighth book, due in the autumn of 2018.

In a wide-ranging, spirited conversation, Paglia and I talked sex, male-bashing feminists, American politics, the Roman Empire, nature, freedom and the future of American culture. »



CAMILLE PAGLIA: It's a busy school day. I normally bellow because I'm a teacher, okay? I'm just very loud. I'm talking to you from my office at the university. It's going to be a struggle not to be bellowing! I'm going to try to be as quiet as possible while we talk.

MISH BARBER-WAY: Don't worry, I have the same problem.

CP: Really?

MBW: I played in a punk rock band my entire life. My whole career has been based on being loud. I think it's good to be loud. What's wrong with having a loud presence?

CP: Yes, for women absolutely. This is my entire complaint! For over 25 years I've been saying that this whole generation – now two generations – has a way too girly and bourgeois speaking style. When push comes to shove and they have to deal with confrontation, their voices and personalities are incapable of communicating what they want.

MBW: I think the way young people speak today is awkward. The word "like" is shoved between each word. You must notice this as a professor.

CP: It's a very self-interrupting style of speaking, which often ends in a question mark. It's getting worse because young people are so tethered to their iPhones. I'm very concerned about this. I see a slow disappearance of body language and facial expressions. This is a disaster for many reasons. It's going to worsen and complicate the communication problems in sex scenarios where oafish men are increasingly unable to read the intentions or desires of the women they're flirting with. It's going to lead to one disaster after another.

Of course, it gets me into trouble when I talk like this, but half the time, young women today don't really know what they want. That's another thing – they project uncertainty and thus invite into the vacuum this boorishness by infantile male personalities. Because that's often what we're talking about – infantile male personalities like Harvey Weinstein. The type of people who are hopelessly klutzy their entire lives but finally get into a position of power and abuse it.

MBW: I am concerned that our culture will end up reverting back to a 1950s style of courtship, where permission, consent and protection trump personal freedom. But instead of asking a woman's father for permission to date her, you will have to ask the woman herself. Have you seen the sexual consent forms that have been drawn up?

CP: I've heard about them, but I haven't seen one yet.

MBW: I saw one and thought it was a joke. It looks like something you would fill out at the doctor's office.

CP: It's utterly depressing, because sex is a transaction of the body, not of the mind. It has very little to do with words. It's subliminal. The whole *point* of sex is to escape the rational realm! My generation of the 60s created the sexual revolution,

but we have left chaos for the generations that came after us. We were raised in a very strict environment, so we had very strong personalities. Now all these young people – white upper-middle-class people – are raised permissively.

It's a whole different world. I've been complaining for decades that the young women in the original date-rape hysteria of the late 80s and early 90s all had a very naïve view of reality. They think that a perfectly safe and protected existence is possible for human beings. I'm sorry, it's not!

Existence is *war*. There is danger and conflict at every level. Young people today are not prepared for that. Everything has come to them automatically. Flip the switch, the lights turn on. They've never experienced the chaos of war, or any catastrophic natural disasters, so they actually believe that a perfect world is possible where they don't have to risk anything and yet they can be eternally protected.

That is just not how I see existence. Period. I see the world as a dangerous place – which is also part of the excitement of it. That is how I was raised. But now, young people want perfect protection and safety even if that means total surveillance by those proxy parents, the intrusive university administrators. It's just terrible that these young women – including young feminists – are surrendering the freedoms that my generation won for them!

MBW: Furthermore, self-policing and the policing of others through social media has created an alert, hostile, and paranoid environment. I wanted to get your take on what has happened to culture's view of men. How did masculinity become "toxic"?

CP: What really gets me furious is the bourgeois, liberal, elitist rhetoric surrounding gender. I am speaking here not as a conservative but as a registered Democrat who voted for Bernie Sanders and Jill Stein – that has to be made clear when I criticise liberal rhetoric.

Demanding equal rights for women is crucial, but mischaracterising men as oppressors and brutalisers throughout history is such a distortion! Of course, there have been brutes, but it's a minority of men who have behaved in a dishonourable way. Overwhelmingly, when you look at world history, it's men courageously giving their lives and their energy – sacrificing themselves for women and children!

All these young, bourgeois kids today have no imagination whatsoever for the infrastructure that is making their comfortable lives possible. They have no understanding of the complex system of electricity, plumbing, paving and manual labour. It makes me furious!

Just a year ago in the suburbs where I live outside of Philadelphia, there was a massive sewage break under a road. There was a huge eruption and a pool of raw sewage. Workers were there in hazmat suits trying to control the unbelievable mess and fix the problem. Who were those people? Men! Not a single woman. I've never seen a single woman working a job that filthy and dangerous. Never. How many times do you see women tending the giant, smoking tar kettles and brushing out hot tar onto city roofs? Men are doing these stinking, horrible, dangerous jobs! Never once have I seen a woman doing that – even though a woman technically



PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE HOLLOW LIVES OF INSTANT PLEASURE AND SELF-FULFILLMENT. WHEN EVERYTHING SHRINKS DOWN TO MERELY THE SELF, PEOPLE FEEL EMPTY.

could do it. Women don't want those types of jobs. They want the men to do the dirty work. According to the Bureau of Labour Statistics, more than 92 per cent of fatalities on the job happen to men. How many times do we have terrible ice storms that cut off electricity for thousands of people? Who goes out in the freezing cold night to handle the live wires? Who? The men! Is there a woman anywhere doing that? If there is, please put her on the cover of your magazine!

MBW: I would – happily!

CP: It's a well-known fact that, on average, women prefer a safe, clean work environment, even if it's lower pay. Men will go for the higher pay and risk serious injury or death. It's the men who keep this fabulous infrastructure going! In my first book, *Sexual Personae*, I wrote a celebration of the great construction cranes: "When I see a giant crane passing on a flatbed truck, I pause in awe and reverence – because these are the works of *men*!"

A woman could probably operate a crane – sure. But it was men who conceived the idea of that crane. It was men who designed and built it. I admire men! I am as strong a woman as you'll ever meet, but what I'm saying is that strong women want strong men. Only weak women want weak men. All these middle-class women who are so unhappy all the time, *they* think they want men to be like women – but they don't.

MBW: My husband is a metal fabricator and a craftsman. He was raised in a working-class family from Arkansas and since meeting him, I have developed a different appreciation for this kind of work that I once took for granted. I think that's why your writing has resonated with me. Why do you think our culture has become so blind to these essential male contributions?

CP: I've been calling for decades for vocational training to be reinstituted. I want a restoration and re-valorisation of the trades. For all of my career, I've been teaching in art schools, so a lot of my students work with their hands. Some have already been earning good money from making furniture and so on. In rural Italian culture, it's assumed that you show true character by your willingness to do physical work.

However, now we're in a period where manufacturing has fled overseas. Over the past 50 years, we've moved into a service-sector economy, which has been a disaster for working-class men who used to be able to walk into a factory off the street and earn a very good living working with their hands.

Look, in Italian culture we pay attention to infrastructure. That's just the way I was raised. Workmanship is important. When my grandfather came home from the shoe factory he'd relax by working on a project in the garage. My uncle made these fantastic nut bowls – magnificent works of art with different-coloured wood. My grandfather made baskets. You never paid anyone else to do anything! You did it yourself – including concrete and stonework.

The Romans developed concrete. In my family – oh my God – they could talk about concrete forever! The right way to pour it, the wrong way to pour it. My whole life I would hear the men in my family evaluating craftsmanship. My mother sewed – all the women did. Among my earliest memories is women fingering my sleeve or lapel and complimenting my mother on the stitching!

Here's another reason that young people are so free-floating – because they're in this digital world where everything is virtual work. They're so removed from the actual making of tangible things. This comes back to sex. The body is deactivated in the digital world. That means that sex has become merely an idea – not something grounded in instincts in the body. The whole energy of the body has been erased. Your physical body rarely moves. You use one finger to type. Even with a typewriter you'd use your hands, arms and shoulders!

We're now raising children as if they have no bodies, yet they live in a sex-saturated world. No wonder everything is such a mess. We must reorient back toward the body. The way that manual trades are no longer honoured, compared to the centrality of the digital world, is related to this tyranny – this leashing of the body's natural, useful energy.

MBW: I love working in the garden. Getting down on my hands and knees and ripping out plants, seeing the seeds sprout up, and then cooking with the vegetables I grew. There is something almost spiritual about working with your body like that in nature. You feel connected to the world.

CP: Reconnection to nature is really important, and unfortunately even that is being politicised. The only way you can relate to nature these days is by saying that nature is a victim of human greed and destruction. Because in Marxism, which has saturated higher education, people can only see society. Society is important; social and political reform are important. I'm a political analyst – I'm not discounting these issues. But society is a very tiny, ever-changing portion of

existence. You will discover a deeper identity and a wider existence by connecting with the concrete world of nature!

Not nature as victim – that drives me crazy! I contribute to the Green Party. I want environmental issues to be honoured. But don't think for a second that we're on the verge of collapse because of all the CO₂ in the air!

MBW: Doesn't that kind of thinking assume that humans are so powerful that we actually have the strength to destroy the planet? We are so miniscule compared to nature.

CP: Exactly! That's how I ended the first chapter of *Sexual Personae*. I said that even nuclear warfare that destroys humankind will be a mere blip compared to the vastness of nature. Even though all remnants of human life will be gone, nature will remain. The grandeur and enormity of nature are fantastic. But today people have to politicise even the massive expansiveness of the cosmos.

MBW: Why has everything become so politicised?

CP: Because human beings need religion. I'm an atheist, but I respect all religions. As the upper middle class became secularised, the tie to traditional religion was lost, but nothing else was put in its place. Religion gives you a huge vision of the universe and human existence. If you take away religion, you have to replace it with something else. So today the educated class worships politics.

MBW: You have made some interesting and allegedly inflammatory predictions about the inevitable collapse of Western culture. Can you explain?

CP: [Laughs] I'm a student of history, and I see history as cyclic. I originally wanted to be an archaeologist, so I've always studied ancient civilisations – how great and powerful they were but how they all collapsed! It was only a few hundred years ago that wealthy, aristocratic families in England would send their sons on a 'grand tour' to contemplate the ruins of Rome: "Here is one of the world's greatest empires, and look how it fell!" The big lesson is that no civilisation lasts.

Unfortunately, our civilisation has become so dependent on electricity and power to run everything. Computers, gas stations, banks – everything requires power. It won't be long – and I believe there have already been test runs by terrorists – before someone figures out how to paralyse the power grid of this country. All of North America will go down fast! Unless you study history, you don't understand how quickly a civilisation can collapse into barbarism.

We don't have an army or police force big enough to contain the total anarchy that would unfold. We're an artificial entity right now – and incredibly vulnerable. It's like we're living on Mars and relying on some nuclear reactor in a science-fiction fantasy!

Meanwhile, these so-called liberals often behave with vicious ruthlessness toward anyone who disagrees with them, including on their own side. Utopians are some of the most punitive, amoral people on the planet. I was first introduced

to Oscar Wilde in high school after I found a book of his quotations at a secondhand bookstore. One quote stuck with me, but I didn't understand it.

It's taken me a lifetime to finally see what Wilde meant. In the 1890s, Wilde was complaining about moralistic, vainglorious Victorian philanthropists. He said, "Philanthropic people lose all

MBW: We've come full circle.

CP: Exactly. Anyone who thinks and votes differently is evil. How could they vote differently than us? All of us in Manhattan, Cambridge, Los Angeles and San Francisco are the enlightened ones and the rest of the world out there are the deplorables! They must be racist, sexist, homophobic and Islamophobic, as Hillary said.

That's how the liberal elite think! So they were dumbfounded when Trump won. [Laughs] They're going to be really surprised when he's re-elected in 2020!

MBW: I wasn't shocked when Trump was elected. He was speaking to a group of people who have been ignored by politicians and the culture at large for a very long time. It doesn't matter if what he promised would happen or not. For his voters, it was about being acknowledged.

CP: The problem is that people of the educated upper middle class see no-one but other members of their own social class. I saw the Trump thing coming, even though I voted for Jill Stein. It had virtually nothing to do with racism, sexism or homophobia. It happened because there were serious issues in the country that my party, the Democratic party, was not facing! Democrats and the partisan media would not even admit there was a problem. They were stuck in their elitist bubble of arrogance, and they still don't get it!

MBW: Finally, because it's *Penthouse*, what value does pornography bring to sex and art?

CP: My position has always been that pornography shows the truth about sexuality, which connects us to the animal realm of primitive urges. Sexual desire and sexual fantasy are perpetually churning on the subliminal and unconscious levels, surfacing in our dream life.

However, the public display of pornography can and should be reasonably limited. Pornography is the pagan bible and should not intrude on city streets except in designated red-light districts. But pornography is vital to freedom of the imagination.

It's only in pornography that we can discern the shifting, shadowy structure of contemporary taboos. We call something "hot" when there is a subtle or not so subtle violation of taboo beneath the surface.

Hence, I view pornography as both art and anthropology – an alluring cultural projection that also reveals the hidden compulsions and conflicts of sexual relations in every era. ❶

Camille Paglia's latest book is Free Women, Free Men: Sex, Gender, Feminism, published by Pantheon (2017). Her next collection of essays is released in Spring, 2018.

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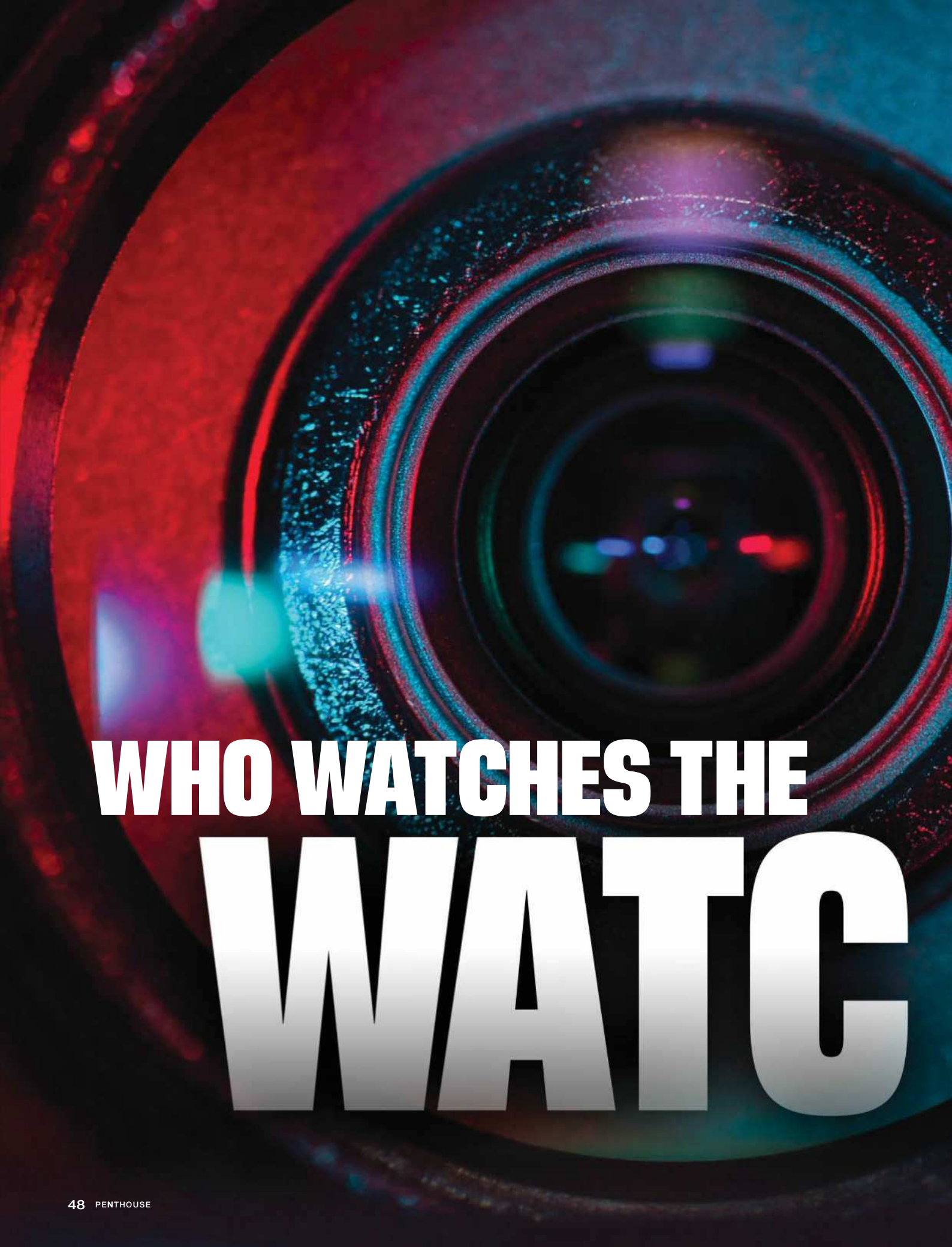


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4



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WHO WATCHES THE WATC

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED A RAFT OF LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS GREY-SUITED BUREAUCRATS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS INTO OUR PRIVATE LIVES.

BY CHRIS SHEARER

In the 2002 film *Minority Report*, Tom Cruise's character John Anderton is a man on the run. After an initial daring escape from police, he's got a new worry: Washington DC's citywide optical recognition system – which not only directs advertisements to individuals by scanning their irises, but also provides a handy way of locating those people for the powers that be. Anderton's only way out is to undertake a risky eyeball transplant. While such a system may sound like another typically fantastical trope of science fiction's techno-dystopias, increasingly, technology and surveillance are intertwining in a way that's bringing us closer to this world.

Here in Australia, we've taken the first tentative steps down this road. As recently as October 2017, the Prime Minister and leaders of the states and territories agreed to establish a National Facial Biometric Matching Capability (NFBMC). Essentially, this deal means that images of your face from your state driver's licence and your federally issued passport, visa or citizenship documents will be shared between the federal government and the states and territories, allowing agencies in all jurisdictions to match images of your face to your name and details.

The new NFBMC is being rolled out in two segments, with the Facial Identification Service (FIS) – coming to an agency near you in 2018 – all the more controversial. The FIS allows cops, spies and fraud hunters around the country to use your ID photo to work out your name, place of residence and whatever else about you that might be on the system from a CCTV still. It's not able to do it in real time as in *Minority Report*, but that's mainly because the technology isn't good enough yet – although researchers say it's getting there.

HMMEN?

THE FIS has reignited the long-running debate on privacy, surveillance and security in Australia. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said at the scheme's announcement that it didn't amount to Big Brother-style mass surveillance, but a bunch of the country's leading civil liberties and privacy groups, including Australian Privacy Foundation, Digital Rights Watch and Electronic Frontiers Australia, came together to condemn it. In fact, they described it as "an unnecessary and disproportionate invasion of the privacy rights of all Australians... the foundation for suspicion-less, warrantless mass surveillance... fundamentally incompatible with a free and open society".

"Make no mistake – this database will affect all Australians, even the most conscientious and law-abiding," said Chair of the Australian Privacy Foundation, David Vaile. "It will likely generate massive 'false positive' lists that will flood our very effective police and security services with useless distractions. We've already seen calls for 'scope creep' to cover welfare enforcement and there's every reason to expect this capability will come to be used to identify people with unpaid fines and other minor issues that have nothing whatsoever to do with terrorism."

A widely cast net

The privacy-versus-security debate is nothing new in post-9/11 Australia. But despite this, the extension of surveillance powers has continued almost unabated. Chris Culnane, a researcher in data security and privacy at the University of Melbourne, says there has been huge growth in the scope and reach of surveillance in Australia over the past decade alone.

"Ten years ago, most people would not have been recorded in a surveillance database. Today, we all are," Culnane told *Penthouse*.

"It's not just that there is a reliance on mass surveillance. It is that the number of organisations that are reliant on it has also grown. In the past, surveillance was the preserve of intelligence agencies, but today it's used throughout government and law enforcement."

This is largely thanks to the ease by which agencies can access our data. Gone are the days of surveillance vans and men in trench coats a few paces behind you. The agent shadowing your every move is no longer a person; it's the technology in your pocket or on your desk. And, as Culnane points out, it makes things a damn sight cheaper than traditional spying methods.

"Digital surveillance has such a low marginal cost. There is not a big difference between targeting one person or one million people."

By the numbers

Over the past decade or so, we've seen a raft of legislation designed to beef up law enforcement and security agencies' capacity to keep a watchful eye over the citizenry, with a focus on digital data collection. While the legislation is numerous, complex and, at times, intentionally secretive, let's look at a few more examples of Australian agencies' lust for your data.

ASIO monitoring powers

In 2014, Parliament easily passed the National Security Amendment Bill which, among a range of counter-terrorism measures, allows ASIO to monitor a limitless number of computers on a network with a single warrant. According to lawyers, rights advocates, academics and media, this effectively

"TEN YEARS AGO, MOST PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN A SURVEILLANCE DATABASE. TODAY, WE ALL ARE."



gives ASIO carte blanche to monitor the entire internet on a single warrant because it is a 'network of networks', and the legislation does not clearly define what a computer is. The same legislation allows for the content of communications to be stored, rather than just the metadata.

Decrypting encryption

Describing widely available encryption services as "the greatest degradation of our intelligence capability in modern times", Attorney-General George Brandis has backed a proposal to compel tech companies to help government agencies get around encryption. This might require 'backdoor access' – essentially, in-built vulnerabilities – into things like Facebook Messenger, decryption keys for encrypted messenger services like WhatsApp, or even enabling remote access to devices to intercept communications. Despite being announced in July 2017, the legislation has not yet been brought to Parliament.

Metadata retention

Perhaps the single greatest change to Australia's surveillance legislation has been the introduction of metadata retention laws, passed in 2015 and officially coming into effect in April 2017. Under these laws, internet providers and telecommunications companies must retain the metadata of *every single Australian's mobile and internet usage* for a minimum of two years. Metadata refers to basically everything but the content of messages or calls, including names of users, their addresses, who they're communicating with, how they're communicating, how long the communication lasts, what time it occurs, and even where they were when they communicated. Plus, unless you're using a VPN, the URL of any websites you've visited is included (think about that for a moment, dear *Penthouse* reader). Currently, at least 20 law enforcement and security agencies can access this information *without a warrant*. In 2015-16, before all telcos and IPs were even fully compliant, these agencies made a whopping 326,000 of these warrantless authorisations to access metadata.

The better nature of grey-suited bureaucrats?

One of the more common arguments in favour of greater surveillance powers sounds like something your mum would





"THIS FUNDAMENTALLY SHIFTS THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT OVER THE CITIZENRY AND IT HAS HAPPENED BY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE, NOT BY PUBLIC DEBATE AND CONSENT."



say: if you haven't got anything to hide, you haven't got anything to fear. The other is that we must trade some of our liberties to ensure our security. At times, those pushing for new powers appear publicly frustrated by what they must see as the naysayers' inability to grasp the logic of both arguments. During the early days of the metadata retention debate, then ASIO chief David Irvine bemoaned what he saw as the public's willingness to give corporations a window into their lives and habits, but not an agency tasked with keeping them safe.

"For the life of me, I cannot understand why it is somehow correct for all of your privacy to be invaded for a commercial purpose and not allow me to do it to save your life," he told a Senate Committee in 2014.

While there may be some truth to both these arguments, it's hard to say for sure. Culhane says the effectiveness of such surveillance programs is highly debatable.

"It is shrouded in so much secrecy that an independent evaluation of it is almost impossible," he says. "In many respects, we should be asking a different question. It's not whether we are safer for it, it is whether it was worth sacrificing our privacy and civil liberties for?"

Prominent critic of Australia's surveillance laws, Federal Senator David Leyonhjelm, suggests the cost is too great, especially given what he sees as a lack of robust safeguards.

"The potential for misuse is very high," he says, pointing to several recent examples in the Queensland Police Service.

"Clearly, if you're trying to catch a murderer or a rapist or a terrorist or something like that, it can be used legitimately, but it's far more likely it will be used by some copper somewhere who fancies a pretty girl and wants to find out what her name is and where she lives."

Others say the average Australian should be concerned because there is the potential that the data gathered could be used in increasingly wider and damaging ways. Lecturer at the University of Melbourne's School of Computing and Information Systems, Dr Suelette Dreyfus, says there's good

reason to believe that current surveillance schemes are open to what she calls "creeping aggressiveness". She points to 2017's Centrelink robo-debt debacle as one example of why we should be concerned. In that case, automated data-matching across systems lead to about 20,000 incorrect debt notices being issued.

"Let me give you a scenario, based on the behaviour of the Commonwealth Government in particular and its aggressive use of this data matching," Dr Dreyfus said. "It's quite feasible you could have a world where you have a girlfriend, and you go to visit her at her apartment on Friday night, and on Monday you get a notice saying, 'We think you're in breach of your Centrelink payment because you're actually living with your girlfriend.'" Your undoing, she explains, might have been metadata about your location, or facial recognition, or something else that was supposed to stop the bad guys, but instead it's got you spending four nights in any given week at your girlfriend's, which suggests to the automated system that you actually live there. Worse still, they've got two years of data to check back on to chase up any back payments they think you may now owe.

Dr Dreyfus notes the shifting of parameters that could lead to such a scenario would not be debated in parliament, nor be subject to a marriage equality-style plebiscite: "They're decided by some grey-suited bureaucrat in Canberra."

But perhaps the simplest argument of all is that we have a right to secrets.

"It's not illegal to see a psychiatrist or visit a by-the-hour motel, but they are private," says Dr Dreyfus. "They used to be private from government when we weren't carrying mobile trackers with us everywhere in the form of our phone. But we have now essentially handed over that data, without explicit agreement, without there being a proper debate about it."

This, she says, "fundamentally shifts the power of government over the citizenry and it has happened by technological advance, not by public debate and consent"

"The thing, too, is, of course everybody has something to hide," says Senator Leyonhjelm. "It might be relatively minor, and the rest of us might think it's of no consequence at all, but we are all entitled to have secrets and we all do have secrets – even if it's just looking at a photo of a pretty girl's backside."

But these arguments don't appear to resonate with the wider Australian community. A November 2017 report by the University of Sydney, which surveyed 1,600 Australians, found that while 47 per cent of people were opposed to governments violating their online privacy, that number dropped to 31 per cent when framed in terms of governments collecting data as part of anti-terrorism legislation. When asked about metadata retention, 79 per cent said they thought it was a breach of privacy for the government to force telcos to store phone call data, and 58 per cent said the same for internet providers and online metadata. And yet, these are both things current legislation requires, perhaps largely because the wider community didn't pay enough attention when the legislation was up for debate.

"There are not enough people in Australia who see what's going on," says Senator Leyonhjelm. "It's a bit like the apocryphal story about boiling a frog: if you put the frog into boiling water, it will hop out. But if you put the frog into water and heat it up, it'll stay and boil to death. Frogs are not that stupid as a matter of fact, but I think the Australian electorate is collectively allowing that to occur. By the time they wake up, it may well be too late."



A LITTLE REBELLION

WHY THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY ARE IMPORTANT FOR A FREE SOCIETY.
BY SENATOR DAVID LEYONHJELM

TO understand our current political debate, it helps to have a view as to where we derive our rights – particularly freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the presumption of innocence and equality before the law.

We agree such rights are what distinguish us from places such as North Korea and Cuba, but are they given to us by the government or are we born with them? Is the government simply there to protect our rights, or should government decide which rights we should have and which we shouldn't?

This debate has been around for a long time. Leading Enlightenment figures such as John Locke and Thomas Hobbes considered it more than 300 years ago.

Hobbes believed the natural state of man was perpetual war, with life nasty, brutish and short. In his view, the only way to achieve civilisation was to relinquish all liberties to the government, which then granted us certain rights as it chose. And if the government wanted to limit those rights, it had every right to do so.

Locke argued man is peaceful and industrious, but to establish a society in which private property is protected, it is necessary to give up certain freedoms to the government. However, this is a limited and conditional arrangement. Only the powers required

little opportunity for scrutiny. A relatively recent and particularly concerning example is the pile of legislation to address the threat of terrorism, introduced by the Abbott and Turnbull governments.

Each bill was said to be essential because existing Commonwealth laws were inadequate, despite no evidence that would-be terrorists were able to perpetrate evil or escape justice because of those inadequacies. Significantly, each bill was accompanied by politicians seeking to create the impression that only by voting for them could voters be safe from terrorism.

Whereas once we could only commit a crime by planning, inciting or undertaking violence, we now risk infringing the law if we investigate, talk about, promote or write about either terrorism or anti-terrorist activity.

On the assumption that any of us might become an offender, our phone and computer records are compulsorily retained, while state and federal governments share our passport, licence and other photos. And, of course, the definition of terrorism is sufficiently flexible to cover a multitude of sins.

Some argue that these powers will only be used for positive purposes, to keep us safe. The problem is, laws that increase the power of the government remain in force long after their

GOVERNMENTS ASSUME WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY LIBERTIES THEY ALLOW US

to protect life, liberty and property should be relinquished, and ultimate power remains with the people. If the government becomes too controlling, those powers can be reclaimed.

Locke heavily influenced the American Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, its principal author and America's third president, is well known for his statement, "I hold it that a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical."

Australia was once a society based on Locke's view. The government was our servant rather than our master, it dipped into our pockets only modestly and generally shared the view of John Stuart Mill that, "the only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others."

This approach has now been abandoned by government in Australia. Hobbes' perspective is now dominant and our governments intrude far beyond protecting our lives, liberty and property. Indeed, governments assume we should be grateful for any liberties they allow us. We are over-governed, over-regulated and over-taxed.

As a senator, I have seen how this comes about. Masses of bills, regulations and red tape of all kinds come flooding in, with

original purpose is gone, ready to be used against anyone else.

Those advocating personal choice and the ability to live free from political correctness, whether about where they work, who they associate with, or what they think, play, watch, consume, buy or invest in, could easily become targets.

As for protecting our property, that's an equally sorry story. Our pockets are being raided by bracket creep, increased superannuation taxes, an increased Medicare levy, GST on low-value imports and a levy on banks.

Meanwhile our national debt continues to grow, to be passed on to future generations. Middle-class welfare remains rampant, duplication between the Commonwealth and states is absurd, additional billions are being thrown at childcare and schools, the nanny state is stultifying and there is a pervasive sense of entitlement to other people's money.

The need to wind back the size of government is obvious, at least to those of us who, like Locke, see governments as a threat to liberty rather than a benign source of rights. The question is how to achieve it.

It may well be that Jefferson was right, and a little rebellion is needed. **1**

David Leyonhjelm is a Senator for the Liberal Democrats.

WISE GUY

OZZIE WRIGHT JOINED A BAND BEFORE HE COULD PLAY, STILL COLOURS WITH CRAYONS, AND STARTED A CAREER BY PICKING THE LOWEST OFFER ON THE TABLE. HE DOES SHIT HIS OWN WAY.

IN our digital world, *pro*-travellers adorned in fashion and accessories sponsored by every brand under the sun target jealous millions watching through their screens. For the new generation, it's not about enlightenment, experiment or even exploration. It's all about exposure.

Which is why so many people love Ozzie Wright so fucking much.

He doesn't care what he's supposed to look like, or which mould he's supposed to fit into. He's mastered the surf industry – as a freesurfer – without even trying, and he lives by his own vibe: the crazier, the better.

"I got into riding boards shorter than everyone else's, 'cause I like to go as fast as I can," says Ozzie. "I go flying down the line. Half of the boards you can barely turn, they're outta control. It's funny the boards I've chosen to ride – they make me surf kinda crazy; I feel like it makes you surf a little more original."

Big-hearted and oozing the raw sex appeal of punk rock-meets-athlete, Ozzie has done everything right to stay original. Growing up freesurfing wasn't a thing, even though Oz will tell you "freesurfing is just surfing, really." But as far as a profession, it didn't exist. Competition was the deal. But the

The first movie Ozzie made for Volcom set the stage for what was to come. He brought along one of his best mates, Cowboy, who had never shot a video before. Pretty standard day job, really. "It was unreal, a dream situation: take your best mate surfing, partying and tripping around the world – for a year!"

When it comes to intelligent life choices, working, travelling and playing with friends is pretty much the only way to go when you choose to live a life less ordinary. Vaughan Deadly, who Ozzie met on the first day of kindy; Killerwhale, who came along in Year 5; and Cutthroat Cowboy, who they found in high school, all now make up the internationally loved surf-rock-meets-horror-punk band, Goons of Doom.

"We were just really old friends in our early twenties, who all surfed together, lived together and had heaps of parties. It was a bit like, 'Should we start a band? Yes, yes we should!'"

What's better than a surfer who travels the world and gets crazy in the water? A band of surfers who get crazy in the water and up on the stage while on the road together.

"We get Goons gigs along the way on surf trips, meet locals and party. Being in a band with your best mates, it's pretty much a dream," says Ozzie. "Music, for us, is the best thing ever to do

"I'M NOT INTO STRUCTURE. I JUST WANT TO SURF HOW I WANT, WHERE I WANT, WHEN I WANT."

sport has grown into an incredibly lucrative career, if you play your cards right and take a few risks along the way.

Originally, Ozzie had been in the competition zone. "You're travelling and going to the beach, meeting everyone and having a good time – a bit like a music festival." Eventually, he realised he could go to these places with a few friends, way less crowds and meet locals and surf on his own terms. "I'm not into structure. I just want to surf how I want, where I want, when I want. I like to do things my way, 100 per cent, all of the time."

Back when offers were on the table, Ozzie had more than a handful of major brands bidding to smack a logo on his back and board. But it wasn't the highest buyer that caught this guy's attention. "The first time I saw Volcom when I was a kid, it hit me like a ton of bricks – this is the company for me. I was like, 'This is it, this is what I want my life to be like.'"

He chose correctly. "I'm so glad I went for the small dollars and the company I truly believed in." Once he got more involved, he realised he was in for more than just a cheque.

In Instagram land, where everyone's arse is for sale, this guy has been loyal to his mates from school and just one brand. It's shaped who he is today and has sent him and his family of chosen wildthings around the world.

with friends – you get to go away together and have so much fun, it's ridiculous."

Having explored many corners of the Earth for "work", ultimately, Indonesia is Ozzie's happy place. "When I go to Indo, I go straight to the art shops and buy tons of paper, crayons and paint. So in my downtime when I'm not surfing, I'll either draw or play music. And most of my friends are there, too, so we're always having a good time."

When he's not creating or chillin' in Indo, Ozzie is traipsing the globe, hopping from one surf spot to another. Years ago, he ventured to Cuba when surfing was only just a whisper. "It's cool to go to those places where there isn't a surfing culture at all and see it from its inception."

He left behind a few boards in Cuba, to a local group getting kids off the street and into riding waves.

"It's pretty special to go to a country that, early on in its surfing history, influences the kids. I hope they're going to do it forever and teach their kids, too."

Ozzie has managed to break the mould of freesurfers before there even was one. He opted for the small dollars and takes his kids on the road. Some would say he's wrong, but if you take the time to get him, you'll understand why he's just so very right. **1**





ISIS HACKED WITH PORN

HACKERS BASED IN IRAQ ARE USING SUBVERSIVE TACTICS TO UNDERMINE THE LEGITIMACY OF ISIS'S "VIRTUAL CALIPHATE".

WHILE the main fight against ISIS is happening on the ground, in the streets of Iraq, increasing numbers of hackers are taking to the internet to attack the group, which uses social media and various messaging apps to spread its hateful messages and find new recruits.

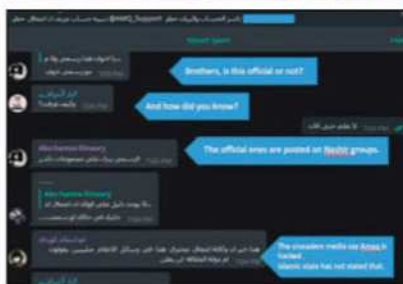
One such group goes by the name Daeshgram, a combination of the Arabic acronym for ISIS and Instagram. By day the secretive hackers work jobs in information technology, cybersecurity, and engineering, while others are students. By night, they lead double lives, meeting in private to wage an online war against ISIS.

"We started thinking about how we could fight them online," says Nada. "We were always messing around on the internet with each other anyway. ISIS is still a threat to Iraq, to Syria, even the world. So we started looking into exactly what might be effective on social media, and on Telegram. Back then, ISIS could do whatever it wanted on Telegram, and we wanted them to know we were going to fight them on there too."

The group took to Telegram, an encrypted messaging app the group use to proliferate the group's high-quality media output, from radio broadcasts to written statements to battle videos.

Their first job was to "infiltrate their Telegram channels," says Nada, "we spent months observing, pretending to be ISIS members. We studied how they behaved, the sort of language they used and tried to take note of the unwritten rules."

The group gets together on weekends and after work and operates from the relative safety of their own homes. However, they still receive death threats "every now and then on Twitter and Telegram from ISIS," explains Ahmed. "We will find you, we will kill you" ISIS writes to them. We just accepted that it is a part of our activities," he adds. "We



are IT experts, we take our cybersecurity seriously."

But the group is not only under threat from ISIS. So deeply embedded are they within the jihadists' online activities, and so convincing is their cover, that it's entirely possible that the Iraqi government could also pose a threat. "I'm not sure they would have understood what we were doing, so we had to be extremely careful with our security," says Ahmed.

One of Daeshgram's earlier attacks on ISIS saw them use porn as a weapon – a fantastic choice if you ask us, when they photoshopped a pornographic scene into an image announcing the opening of a new media centre.

"It let Daesh know that we were capable of replicating its media to a very high standard, it was the first seed of doubt," explains Nada. However, they soon learnt that to have the effect they desired "our output had to be subtle, and believable." Nada adds, "We wanted to create items that ISIS members would not question and would share widely." As with all fake news, believability was key. ①

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IN FOCUS WITH **BEN TSUI**

BEN Tsui is a Hong Kong-born, LA-raised photographer. A self-described 'Valley Kid', he tells us about his early experiences with photography, his inspirations and how his style has shifted over the years. This shoot comes all the way from his home in Southern California and features a diverse mix of beautiful scenery, soft natural light and, of course, incredibly beautiful women.





BEN TSUI

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Hong Kong, moved to Los Angeles when I was 11 years old and grew up in North Hollywood – a typical valley kid.

What was your first experience with photography?

My grandfather used to do a lot of travelling deep into China. He would show me pictures he'd taken of people he'd met in small villages, temples in the mountains and tombs in the desert. I thought they were very cool.

Who were your early influences?

When I first started shooting people, I was really intrigued by the work of Henri Cartier-Bresson, Helmut Newton and Ray Metzker.

What was your first big break?

When I was offered a position as a newsagency staff photographer. At that time, I was a retail manager by day and a bouncer at a club in Hollywood by night.

How has your style changed over time?

I think I've become more of a purist, employing less tricks with my photography. I used to incorporate a lot of graphic design elements, typical of a style commonly found in advertising. I find myself allowing the mood of the shoot to take over more now.

What do you look for when taking a photograph?

Besides all the technical aspects, capturing the mood and telling a story.

What makes a good shot when you're photographing models?

The model has to feel effortlessly free and powerful so she can connect with herself and the environment. It's the photographer's job to help her get there. When she does – everything will fall into place.

Tell us about some of the places you've travelled to.

Being based in Southern California, I can say I'm pretty spoiled when it comes to photo locations. There are mountains, oceans, lakes, rivers, deserts, forests, flat plains, fields, incredible architecture – all within a couple of hours' drive. This makes it easy to do most of my work close to home. I've also done some shoots in Asia and Central America while on vacation.

What was one of your favourite place to shoot?

Tokyo at night was pretty awesome. Shooting in the middle of the Shibuya Crossing in the rain with a sea of people spread out in front of me – it was exhilarating.

If you could shoot anywhere in the world, where would it be?

I would love to shoot all over Europe, from West to East. Anywhere and everywhere. Everything seems like a brochure for inspiration.

If you could give one tip to budding *Penthouse* photographers, what would it be?

Make every shoot an enjoyable experience for yourself and everyone you work with. **1**

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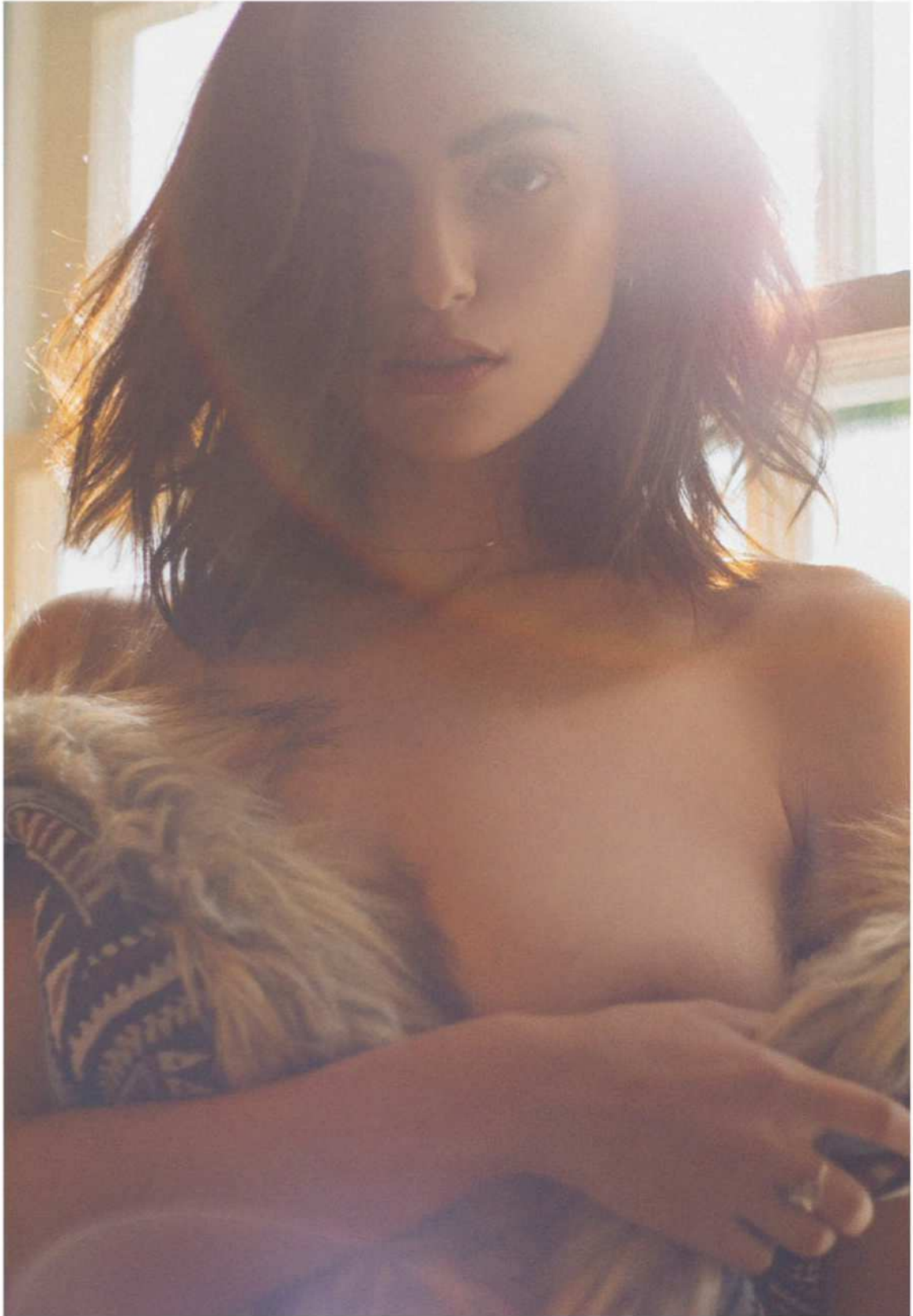
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FLYING HIGH

BOMBARDIER GLOBAL 7000

THIS is the Bombardier Global 7000, one of the largest and most well-appointed business jets the world has ever seen. Scheduled for release in the second half of this year, these bad boys of the sky from the Canadian airline manufacturer could be yours for a cool \$93 million.

The industry's only business jet to offer four living spaces, this B.J has been designed with the richest of the rich in mind – whether you're ordering one to cart nine of your closest associates to Panama to drop off some, er, documents, or using it to ferry fellow party animals to your private island for a week-long fiesta, there's an option for you.

Two 16,500 pound thrust GE Passport jet engines power the Global 7000 to a top speed of Mach 0.925. While it may not have the range of its Bombardier stablemate, the Global 8000, that's not the point – this one, above all else, has been built for comfort.

STATS

CREW: 2-4
CAPACITY: 19 RICH FOLK
LENGTH: 33.9 M
WINGSPAN: 31.7 M
MAXIMUM SPEED: 1142 KM/H
CABIN HEIGHT: 1.9 M
HEIGHT: 8.2 M
RANGE: 13,705 KM

HL

HIGH LIFE



FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE

WHEN Ford re-released the beloved Mustang in 2013, fans went wild. Instead of re-hashing a classic, the US motor giant took cues from its vintage ponies, but effectively designed an entirely new vehicle from the ground up. It created something unique and original, something that the world didn't know it needed until it arrived. At a time when electric engines were becoming trendy (and common), it launched a big, growling V8, much to the delight of rev-heads the world over. The convertible has one downside: it only

comes with an automatic gearbox (the clunky manual gearbox paired with the heavy V8 in the coupe is a dog, but an authentic one that feels like an American car should). If you can live without the control of a clutch, however, the convertible is about as comfortable a road-tripping car as you will find. Throw a surfboard in the back, crank some tunes and see if you can get the stereo to drown out the scream of the engine block when you're going full tilt down Route 66 (spoiler alert: you can't. This thing is effing loud).





LUXURY DRIVE

BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT

THE Bentley Continental GT is one of the most overlooked cruising machines on the market, and we can see why. With the body of a grand tourer and the coachwork of, well, a Bentley, it may look far tamer than many of its sports car brethren in the

same class (Aston Martin, Ferrari and the like). But tame it isn't – this has the performance of a supercar.

With a 0-100 speed of 3.6 seconds, the massive 6.0L W12 turbocharged engine sends 626 bhp to the 4x4 drivetrain, at just 5000rpm. Striking,

elegant looks aside, you can take this vehicle just about anywhere there's a semi-flat surface and it'll deliver – it's built tough and has even proven itself able to handle the Aussie outback. And for a price tag north of half a mil, you'd bloody want it to.







STATS

OPENED: 1999

SIZE: 120,000 SQ. FEET

CONSTRUCTION COST:
\$1.9 BILLION

CAPACITY: 4,049 ROOMS

COST: FROM \$225 TO
\$13,000 PER NIGHT



LUXURY ESCAPES

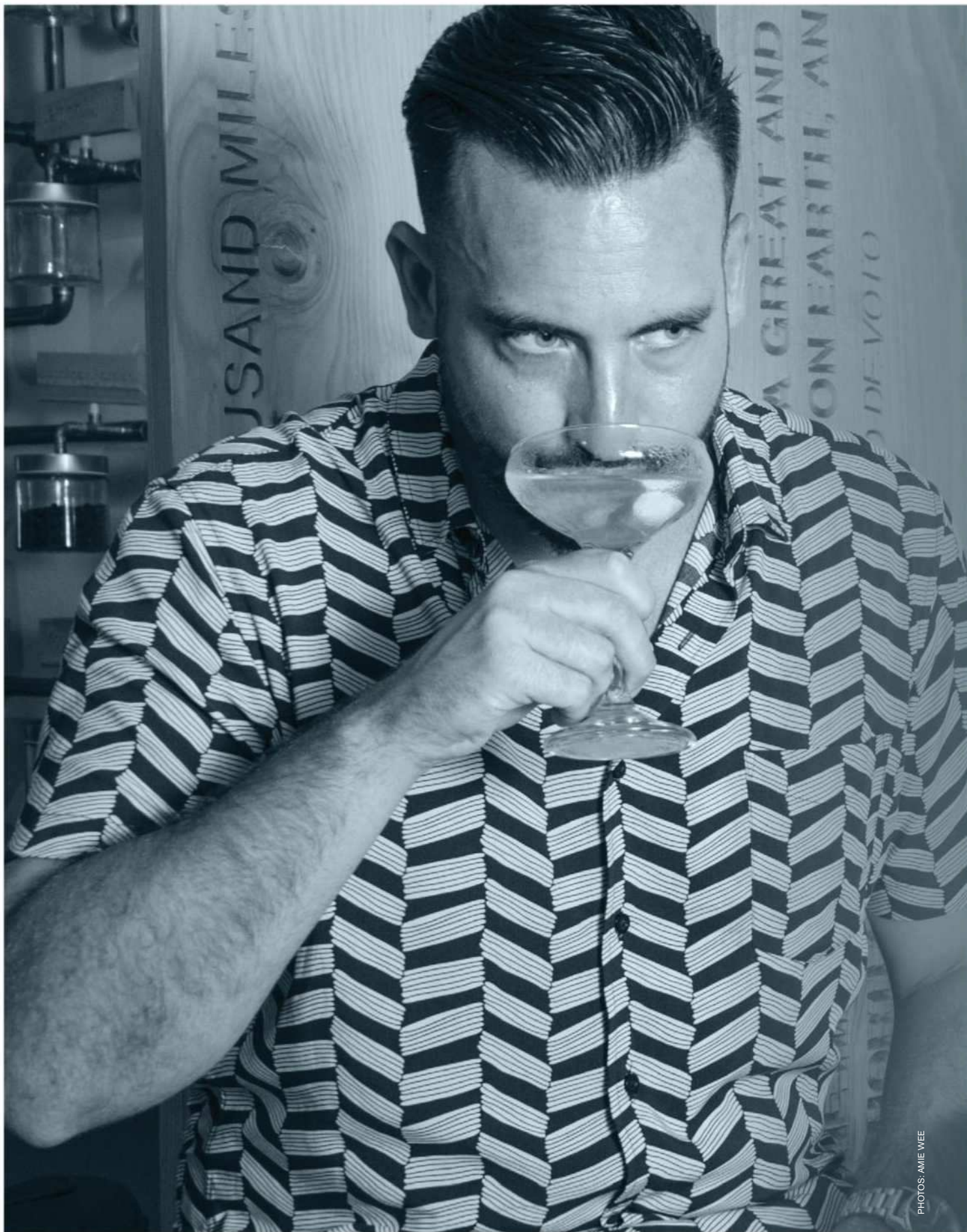
LAS VEGAS

AMERICA'S playground, Las Vegas, needs no introduction. On a strip built entirely to fleece the hopeful gamblers that come from far and wide, each venue boasts some of the best hospitality in the world in the hopes you'll have one more spin, play one more hand, or roll one more time.

While it's home to some of the biggest casinos known to mankind, the largest of these is The Venetian, weighing in at a staggering 11,150 square metres of gaming space. Trumped only by its Macau-based brother of the same name, the resort complex is the second-largest hotel in the world, with 4,049 rooms. Around 3,000 are suites that can cost up to \$13,000 per night, though the real-deal high-rollers seldom pay a cent in actual bills, as their losses on the floor are so profitable. With four theatres, 40 restaurants and myriad bars and clubs, this is a city within a city.

The ambitious developers spent over \$1.9 billion on construction, adorning the resort with columns of solid Botticino marble, hand-painted frescos and hand-fitted Italian marble tiles. The enormous canals that run through and around the entire structure hold 3,179,000 litres of water and host the motorised gondolas that were launched by Sophia Loren herself when the place first opened.

Excessive? Of course it fucking is. But it's Vegas, baby. That's entirely the point.



PHOTOS: AMIE WEE

INTERVIEW

THE GIN BOSS



GIN AND **LEON DALLOWAY** GO TOGETHER LIKE G&T.
INTERVIEW BY AMIE WEE

KICKED back on a leather couch at a distillery on Sydney's North Shore, a refreshing rockmelon Collins in hand, I listen as London bartender-turned-"gintrepreneur" Leon "The Gin Boss" Dalloway tells me how he went from pouring drinks for a living to getting paid to drink them.

"Like most people, I fell into bartending because I needed a job," says the gin expert. "But I quickly fell in love with it, and it was through bartending that I learnt how cool spirits can be."

A few slugs into my cocktail, I'm starting to see why Dalloway's such a hit. He's a charismatic, funny guy, with a loud laugh that booms through the bar. It's obvious he knows his shit, but he isn't pretentious. And the man loves to drink. He's the ideal drinking buddy. Which is exactly why his personalised booze tour, The Gin Journey, is so popular. "It's basically a posh bar crawl for cocktail and gin enthusiasts," he says.

The craze has also seen the rise of gin clubs as well as subscriptions, where people have gin arrive at their door on a regular basis. "A magazine in the UK did an article on a company I was working for that released a gin advent calendar and they sold more than 70,000 of them in two hours," Dalloway laughs. "They had to package quick. Gin is blowing up; it's exploding. There is so much cool, exciting stuff in the gin world right now. Vodka was the clear spirit choice from the 1960s, but people are drawn to the fact that gin is more quirky and interesting." ▶▶



WHAT DOES THE AVERAGE PENTHOUSE READER NEED TO PULL OFF KILLER COCKTAILS AT HOME?

"You don't need cocktail shakers; you just need a big jam jar. And quality ice – that's what people take for granted. You buy a crappy bag of ice, use that and suddenly your cocktails are over-diluted. Invest in some quality ice trays. I've got one freezer drawer dedicated to ice, purely so I can make nice drinks. Stock up on fresh fruit and herbs to use as garnishes. Get some nice glassware. If you've got all that, you can start experimenting with nice infusions. Sugar syrup is the cheapest ingredient in the world: half sugar, half warm water, stir it together until it's dissolved. Chuck some rosemary and lavender in it and you're going to get this beautiful flavoured syrup. You can then go ahead and make a lavender Tom Collins or a rosemary Tom Collins."



» As far as Dalloway's concerned, even the classic G&T has improved over time. "I think people got to the point where they were like, 'Well, no longer does the gin and tonic have to be two cubes of ice that have diluted by the time it's on the table with a slimy piece of lemon.' I always picture it in a sad pub in England, with no music on and a smelly carpet floor. Nowadays, people are creating premium tonics with natural sweeteners and natural citric. The result is a tasty tonic that really helped push the gin and tonic to where it is now."

Does a more expensive brand of gin make for a better tasting drink? Not necessarily. "Never pay over 100 bucks for a bottle of gin or else you're paying for the bottle," says Dalloway. "If you do that, make sure you at least use it as a nice candle holder afterwards"

So, what about the people making the gin? Following the craft beer trend, new artisan and bespoke distilleries are popping up all over Australia and abroad. Dalloway explains how, in the UK, a change in licensing and distillation laws is partly to thank for the gin boom. He explains that before 2009, your still had to be 1,500 litres or bigger, meaning you had to buy an expensive still and invest a lot into the alcohol that went into it. "If you messed up, you were screwed." The changing laws meant you could buy a 200-litre still so you didn't have to invest as much in the alcohol, making the whole process more accessible.

"A lot of people who've been working in banking, insurance or whatever for years, maybe they've lost their job and they think, 'Well, what can I do? I've got a bit of money, I'm going to set up a distillery.' It can be done. People have seen it can be done and they're following suit and carving out a life for themselves," says Dalloway.

"NEVER PAY OVER 100 BUCKS FOR A BOTTLE OF GIN OR ELSE YOU'RE PAYING FOR THE BOTTLE".

"There have been a few gin car crashes recently, though," he laughs, telling me about Skinny Gin, which claimed to help people lose weight. "It was absolute bollocks."

"When it comes down to it, a gin needs to be a gin. It needs to be juniper-forward. Without it being juniper-forward, it's not really a gin – it's more a flavoured vodka. It's important for distilleries to really make sure that the juniper content and flavour profile is right. As boundary pushing and modern as it can be, you still need to hold true to the history of gin."

So what does Dalloway think of the gin scene Down Under?

"Australia has one of the most exciting gin scenes in the world," he says, telling me that we, like Scotland, use indigenous botanicals in our gin. "Australia has a unique style of distillation. People are using botanicals from just down the road." The distillery we're at, Manly Spirits Co., for example, uses Australian native and marine botanicals such as sea lettuce and finger lime. "It's exciting that all of these gins are emerging which show the character from where they're from. This wasn't happening 20 years ago."

But will gin ever hit the heights of whisky's collectability? It's a yes from Dalloway. "I'm seeing a lot of couples getting a nice bottle of gin, getting some premium tonics and good garnishes. They start a nice little collection and when they have friends over, they'll show it off."

Couples aside, why are rappers so mad for it? "That's a great question," Dalloway laughs. "Snoop likes Tanqueray. Amy Winehouse wasn't a rapper but she loved it as well. The '90s rap scene was well into gin – I think it was just the drink of the time. Well, that and some of them probably got some sweet deals out of it – a little money in the back pocket..."

SYDNEY



CANBERRA



VICTORIA



TASMANIA



AUSTRALIAN GINS

MANLY SPIRITS CO

Barrel Aged: A deep and beautifully rich gin. I would love to see this in a Martinez. Stir it down with red vermouth, maraschino liqueur and a touch of orange bitters and you've got yourself a drink of the gods.

Dry Gin: This has a real native Northern Beaches feel to it. It tastes like the walk from Manly Beach to Shelley. I'd love this in a G&T with Fever-Tree Mediterranean Tonic and a leaf of lemon myrtle.

Coastal Citrus Gin: One of the best citrus forward gins I've ever tasted due to the lemon aspen. Serve it up in a White Lady and this gin will soar. Grab some fresh egg white, lemon, sugar syrup and orange liqueur and shake like you mean it. Double strain and pour into a chilled Martini glass.

UNDERGROUND SPIRITS

Signature Gin: A classic Aussie number. I like the thought of this in a Southside. Shaken gin with lime, sugar syrup and mint strained into a Martini glass and we're away.

Shiraz & Pepper Berry Gin: The Shiraz is subtle and the pepper berry sidelines it nicely. Shake it up in a Bramble with lemon, sugar and drizzle over some Creme de Mure and it'll be tasty.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID

Wild Rose Gin: A very fragrant and feminine gin. Would sit nicely in a rose and lychee Martini. Grab some lychee liqueur, lemon and sugar syrup, and shake it up and pour into a martini glass with no ice. Garnish with a rose petal and you're ready to party.

STRAIT

Sloe Gin: Sloe berries sourced from Evandale Orchard make this a uniquely Tasmanian gin. Goes down sweet as a liqueur on ice.

Hazelnut Gin: Impress your mates by serving up a round of decadent hazelnut flavoured espresso Martinis at your next gathering.



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TROPICAL PARADISE **JULIA BY JOAKIM**

JOAKIM Karlsson is one of our favourite photographers. His work has a raw beauty that's difficult to ignore, and the shoot over the next few pages is no exception. The stunning Julia looks wild as hell, and the pristine water and tropical jungles makes us feel like we're still on holidays. Like sexy exotic postcards from a place that we'd all rather be, this shoot will hopefully tide us over until our next tropical getaway.





JOAKIM and Julia spend their days travelling the world and taking incredible pictures. Here they explain their love of travel and their personal tips for enjoying each place they visit.

Why do you love to travel?

New, sometimes difficult circumstances inspire us as we break habitual patterns and start from scratch every day.

We find new, hidden abilities that we didn't know we had. This motivates us to keep going and makes it impossible to stop travelling. That's why for the whole of last year, we spent only ten days at home.

What's your favourite kind of destination?

Julia: We appreciate small islands and huge cities. Each location has its secrets and surprises. Every city or island has such individual character.

How do travel and new destinations influence your photography?

Joakim: Working in new places is always exciting. The anticipation in the lead-up to travelling to a new destination motivates us to be well-prepared. New locations inspire the eye, although only a small part of them are in the frame.

I like to study and work all the time in new, unknown conditions. This gives me space for personal and professional growth.

What's been the biggest cultural shock while travelling?

We may get surprised sometimes – but it's not easy to shock us. We don't compare other people with ourselves or other cultures with that of our country – we simply accept them.

Do you have any hot travel tips for us?

Smile and take a positive attitude: this is the most valuable thing you need to pack in your suitcase, this is our big secret.

You're going travelling and you can bring the clothes on your back along with three other items – what are they?

Julia: Yoga mat, philosophy book, sunscreen

Joakim: Camera, portable speaker, and of course, the latest issue of *Penthouse*.

What's next for you guys?

The beginning of any trip is amazing! We are always positive and ready for anything new. We will surprise you by visiting the most unexplored and unusual regions of this wonderful world. 📍

Follow us!

Instagram: [julia_yaroshenko](#)

Instagram: [joakim_carlsson](#)











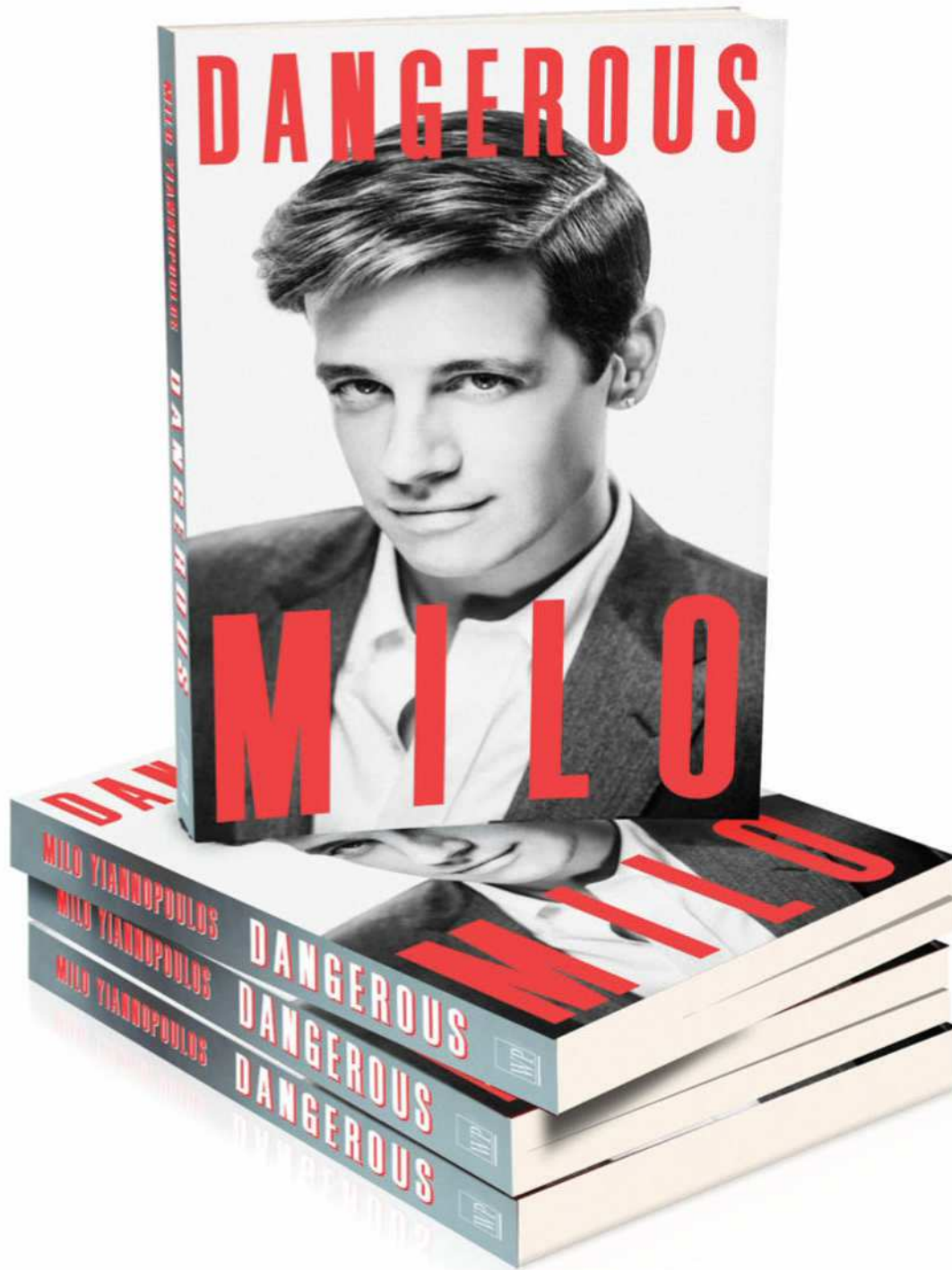
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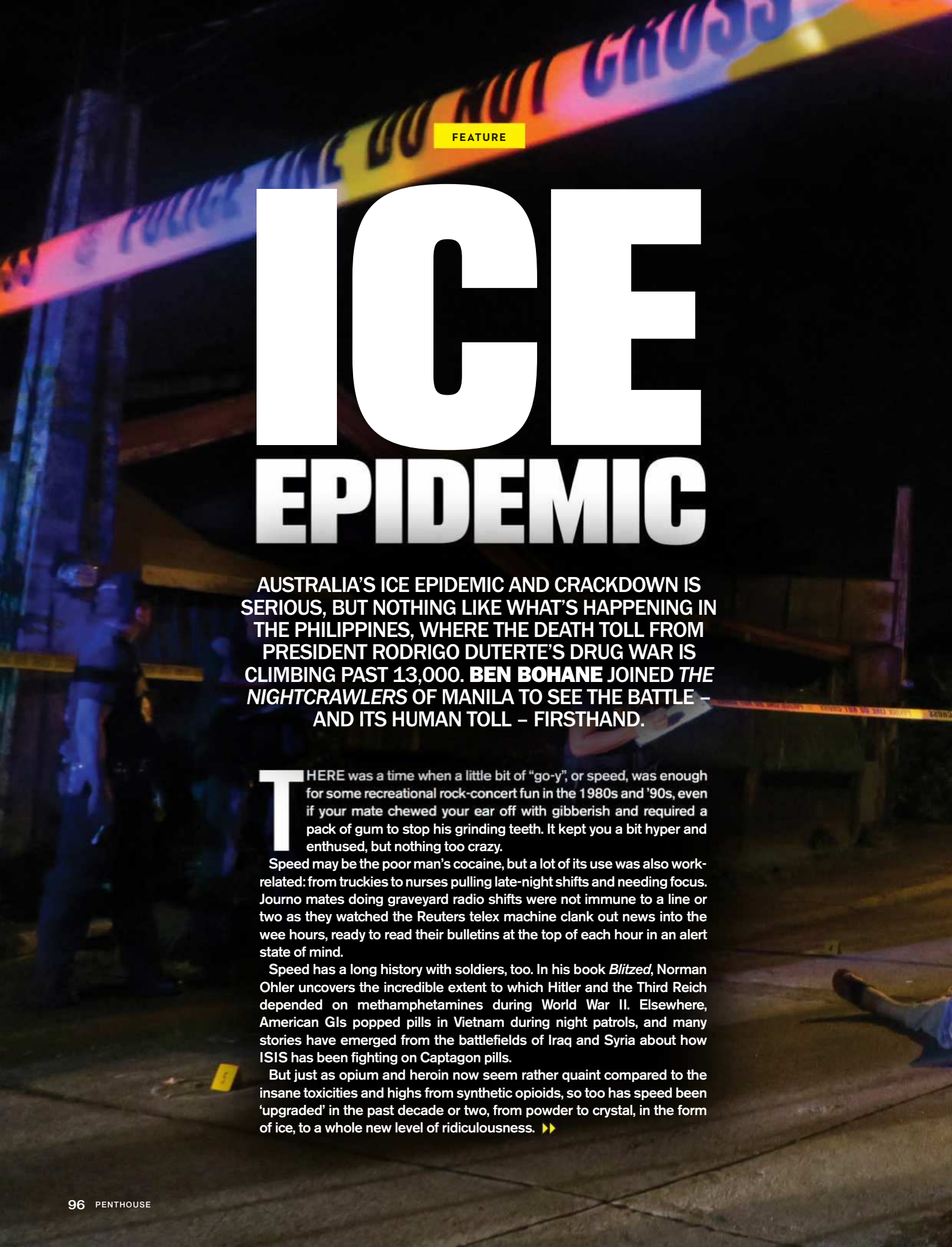


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FEATURE

ICE EPIDEMIC

AUSTRALIA'S ICE EPIDEMIC AND CRACKDOWN IS SERIOUS, BUT NOTHING LIKE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE THE DEATH TOLL FROM PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE'S DRUG WAR IS CLIMBING PAST 13,000. **BEN BOHANE** JOINED *THE NIGHTCRAWLERS* OF MANILA TO SEE THE BATTLE – AND ITS HUMAN TOLL – FIRSTHAND.

THERE was a time when a little bit of “go-y”, or speed, was enough for some recreational rock-concert fun in the 1980s and '90s, even if your mate chewed your ear off with gibberish and required a pack of gum to stop his grinding teeth. It kept you a bit hyper and enthused, but nothing too crazy.

Speed may be the poor man's cocaine, but a lot of its use was also work-related: from truckies to nurses pulling late-night shifts and needing focus. Journo mates doing graveyard radio shifts were not immune to a line or two as they watched the Reuters telex machine clank out news into the wee hours, ready to read their bulletins at the top of each hour in an alert state of mind.

Speed has a long history with soldiers, too. In his book *Blitzed*, Norman Ohler uncovers the incredible extent to which Hitler and the Third Reich depended on methamphetamines during World War II. Elsewhere, American GIs popped pills in Vietnam during night patrols, and many stories have emerged from the battlefields of Iraq and Syria about how ISIS has been fighting on Captagon pills.

But just as opium and heroin now seem rather quaint compared to the insane toxicities and highs from synthetic opioids, so too has speed been 'upgraded' in the past decade or two, from powder to crystal, in the form of ice, to a whole new level of ridiculousness. ►►

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INFORMER



REMEMBER people doing crazy shit on speed, but they didn't eat babies – literally – or tear their own flesh away, or jerk off in public, or require five security guards to control them as they arrived in casualty wards following four-day benders. No, as someone who keeps an open mind when it comes to drugs, I have always, ahem, drawn the line at ice (meth, *shabu*, crystal, glass, shard, whatever you want to call it) myself. I mean, is there a more stupid and insidious drug out there? More than any other, ice appears to be an exercise in getting a few highs, followed by a rapid descent into madness and self-destruction.

Sensible people take drugs to relax, to focus or to enhance a pleasant situation. And you can make a lifelong career out of it without having to wind up in rehab, give everything up and become a Boring Person. Or, you can dive deep into the crystal abyss and totally fuck yourself (and your family) up forever. Choose your drugs wisely, my friends (not that I am advocating, etc.).

There's been a fair bit of media coverage of the ice wars and its penetration here in Oz. Though it's often a bit sensationalist, there is no question that ice addiction really is cutting a swathe through a whole generation, particularly in rural communities. It has become a crisis in many small Australian towns and FIFO communities.

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre said there were 1,649 ice-related deaths in Australia between 2009 and 2015, finding 43 per cent of those were overdoses.

and gangs. These days, some Australian bikie gangs have set up in Thailand to get involved in the meth trade closer to the source, and violent intimidation, murders and drug busts have ensued.

Burma, once famous for the tons of opium and heroin carried by mules out of the notorious Golden Triangle, is now the base for massive ice labs and meth factories run by much the same narco-armies who used to run heroin. Ice seems to have a wider market now and is cheaper to manufacture and cheaper to buy. A lot of it is smuggled by Chinese Triad gangs across Asia and into Australia, Europe and the US.

Given the ubiquity of Chinese involvement through its "snakehead" networks overseas (never for local use in China), it is interesting to ponder whether the Chinese state turns a blind eye to the increasing destruction wrought by shabu (as it is often called in Asia) in western countries. Perhaps it is their revenge for the humiliation of the Opium Wars of the mid-19th century, when Britain forced an opium monopoly on China, creating millions of addicts. Back then, Britain's idea of a drug war was to *enforce* drug supply, not stop it.

Yet, few countries have found themselves in such a dire situation as the Philippines. While Australia grapples with its own epidemic, in 2012 the United Nations said the Philippines had the highest rate of methamphetamine use in East Asia. According to a US State Department report, 2.1 per cent of Filipinos aged 16 to 64 were using the drug, known locally as shabu. In a nation of now 105 million people, that means a conservative estimate of more than two million addicts.

MANILA IS PRETTY SEEDY AT THE BEST OF TIMES, BUT ITS BACK ALLEYS AND SLUMS HAVE BECOME EVER MORE DANGEROUS AS THE DRUG WAR CONTINUES

Meanwhile, a recent survey found 1.4 per cent of Australians over the age of 14 had used ice in the past 12 months – that's roughly one in 70 people.

Some headlines from the second half of 2017:

- "Australian Federal Police seize largest-ever haul of methamphetamine precursor: Australian Federal Police have found almost four tonnes of the drug precursor ephedrine – enough to make up to \$3.5 billion of methamphetamine – hidden in green tea bottles sent from Thailand."
- "Meth users top 30 per cent spike in 'toxic blend' of mental illness and drug use: More than 40 per cent of meth users have a mental illness, as experts warn Australia is ill-equipped to deal with spiking rates of mental illness among drug users."
- "'This is not a beat-up': Ice-related deaths doubled over seven years, study finds: The number of deaths relating to methamphetamine use has doubled in seven years, with nearly half of those in regional Australia, a national study finds."

I might have had more personal experiences to relay had I been living in Australia in recent decades, but instead I have seen the ice explosion across Asia and witnessed the first "ice" war in Thailand under Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in the noughties, when several thousand people were killed by cops

Some reports blame Chinese triad gangs for importing much of the shabu, or at least its precursor materials, from China. Meth labs were found operating openly in some prisons, implicating their police wardens. So when "Duterte Harry" came to power in June 2016, he vowed a ruthless campaign against corruption and addiction that has not stopped since. Human-rights groups are aghast and many complain that it is effectively a "war on the poor". But President Rodrigo Duterte remains wildly popular for his maverick style and uncompromising approach to drugs and security.

I was in the Philippines covering tensions in the South China Sea when his drug war kicked off, and later ended up covering the night battles in Manila. I also visited the rehab centres that were becoming overwhelmed as tens of thousands of addicts began turning themselves in for treatment, afraid they'd be shot on sight by cops given a "licence to kill" by Duterte, no questions asked.

Manila is pretty seedy at the best of times, but its back alleys and slums have become more dangerous as the drug war continues. Many innocents are caught in the crossfire, or even by wrong information, but there seems little accountability from the police or state.

I was enjoying the hospitality of Manila's nightcrawling media and police photographers at their Manila Police District headquarters in Ermita for barely 20 minutes before the first call came through. We were tucking into some noodles at the time,



when a photographer serenading us with his guitar suddenly stopped. Others looked up from their computer games of poker, before grabbing their cameras and heading out the door.

Jumping into a convoy of cars from the press corps office, we moved at speed through the tangle of night-time traffic, racing to document the next killing in a drug war that shows no end.

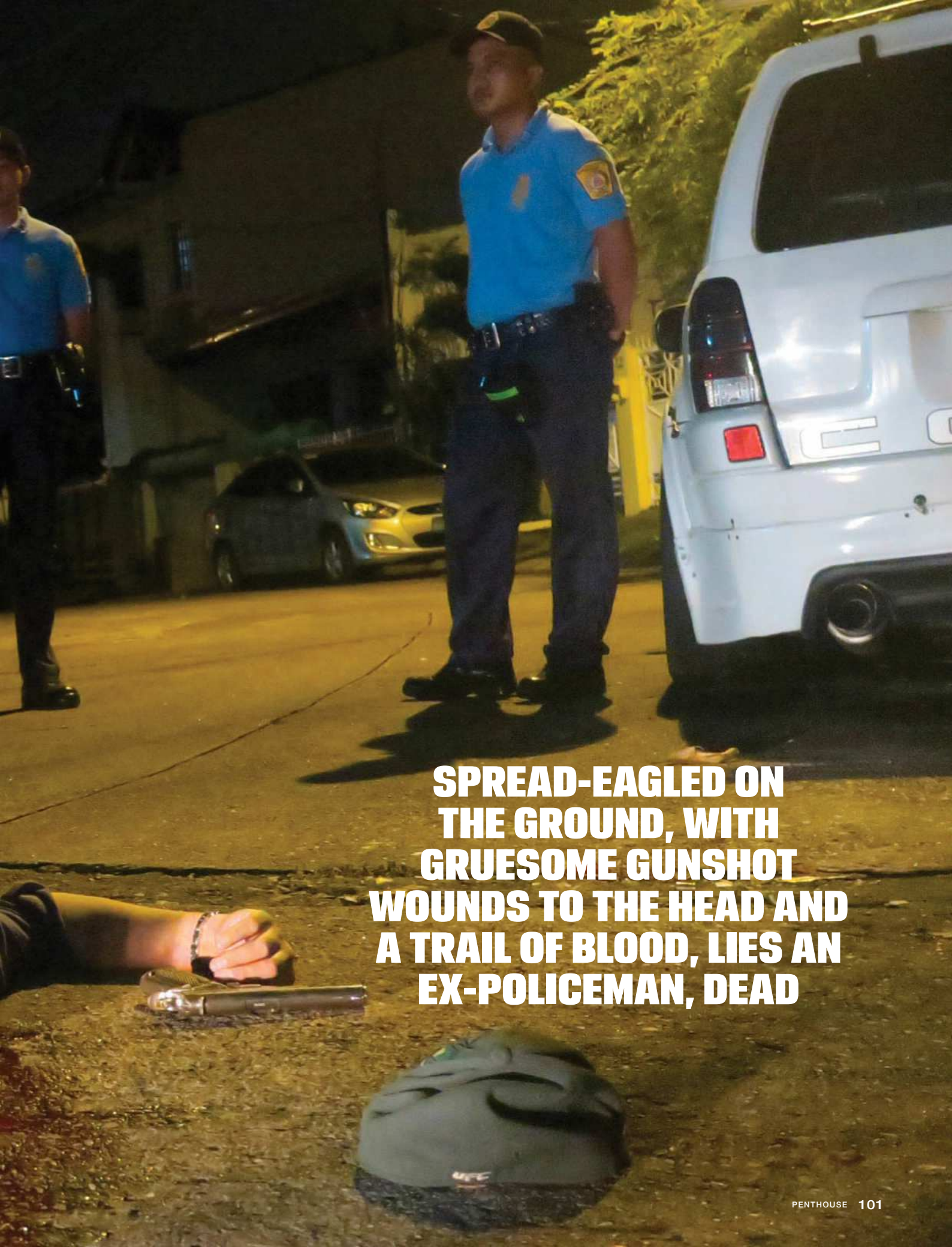
It was 11pm and the dozen or so photographers from various local media, such as *Manila Bulletin* and *The Philippine Star*, wire agency photographers and freelancers, had already covered one slaying earlier in the evening. "Last night there were 12 killings around Manila," said one. "Most nights recently there are at least 10."

We head to Marikina City, east of Manila Metro, and find a crime scene already being established by heavily armed police, with a body in an alleyway next to a 7/11 convenience store. As we're waiting for permission to go under the yellow tape to photograph, we get the next call about a shoot-out nearby.

"Let's hop to the next one – it's an ex-cop who's been killed, so it'll be more interesting," says freelance photographer Linus Escandor. Fifteen minutes later, we're at the next scene. Here, spread-eagled on the ground, with gruesome gunshot wounds to the head and a trail of blood, lies an ex-policemen, dead. He'd been killed in a shootout with police from the Station Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Group (SAIDSOTG) during a raid at midnight, 25 minutes earlier. Identified as PO3 Pelito

Cont. on page 102





**SPREAD-EAGLED ON
THE GROUND, WITH
GRUESOME GUNSHOT
WOUNDS TO THE HEAD AND
A TRAIL OF BLOOD, LIES AN
EX-POLICEMAN, DEAD**

Basan Obligacion, he was claimed to be drug – and gun-running and, as in most cases, supposedly had “fired first, causing police to respond”. A .45 Colt pistol lay near his limp hand.

There’s a recurring joke among the press photographers: that it seems as if the same revolver is always somehow there, lying next to the dead hand of a victim who “tried to shoot first”, as the cops will invariably say.

Under the glare of headlights, flashing police lights and TV camera lights, the crime scene is lit up and forensics teams get to work once the photographers have their shots. Yellow tape then cordons off the area, and spent bullet casings are circled in chalk and numbered.

“Most of the killings happen in the outer suburbs or central Manila,” says Linus. “Not so much in Makati [the main business part of town], because there is a lot of CCTV there”.

The killings began before Duterte had even been sworn into office, as if in anticipation.

Within just two weeks of his inauguration as the 16th president of this sprawling archipelago of more than 7000 islands and 105 million people, nearly 300 drug dealers and users had been killed in shoot-outs with police and vigilantes. Duterte had launched a withering crackdown on drugs that gave his cops licence to “shoot first, ask later”. Within 100 days, the death toll had already reached staggering heights, tipping 3500 drug dealers, users and innocent civilians caught in the fray.

A startling 60,000 addicts handed themselves in for treatment at various regional clinics around the country in those first few weeks – the fear of being killed by police now seemingly overriding their

Nor has he been seen to be only going after the small fish. Within his first month in office Duterte named and shamed five of the nation’s highest police chiefs as “narco-generals” protecting criminal syndicates, and he’s outed many more since. In one province alone, the Visayas region, 123 police were sacked, while Duterte enlisted the help of the New People’s Army (NPA), the communist insurgents, to take out drug dealers in their areas, which its leaders agreed to.

He even showed little sympathy when his own son Paolo was implicated in a drug importation racket in September, publicly vowing to kill him “if the rumours are true” and Paolo is convicted.

The tough approach has concerned not just civil society groups but ordinary Filipinos who voted for him and who worry that “a war on drugs is also a war on poor people”. One taxi driver, Bobby, said he voted for Duterte, but told me “we have courts for a reason. You can’t let cops be judge, jury and executioner”.

Back at the station later, the guys are smoking and strumming guitars when the sixth call-out for the night comes. This one is a “salvage” job, slang for “summary execution”, and so named because the victims are often wrapped in plastic and dumped. While corrupt police are often involved in killings to silence potential informers now that the crackdown is in full force, they tend not to bother with salvage jobs since, as one photographer puts it, “They can’t be bothered wrapping them in plastic; they just shoot them and say there was a shoot-out.”

Later, once again we speed through traffic, pretty heavy even for this time of night. This is actually the most dangerous part of

SPEEDING ACROSS LANES IN LIGHT RAIN, A TAXI BRAKES HARD IN FRONT OF US AND SUDDENLY WE ARE FISHTAILING ACROSS SEVERAL LANES AND NEARLY SLAM INTO BUILDINGS ON THE SIDEWALK

hardcore addiction. Since then, hundreds of thousands more have surrendered, overwhelming the public health system. Rehab centres have reportedly been set up on army bases to help cope with the staggering numbers.

Duterte has vowed he will risk everything to put an end to the drug problem, which he cites as a major security and corruption issue. The former Mayor of Davao in southern Mindanao island, he is credited with creating one of the safest cities in the Philippines for his tough-on-crime approach, although critics have denounced his vigilante-style methods. He has boasted of killing criminals himself which, in the Philippines, only adds to his lustre – the Pinoys love an action man.

At his presidential inauguration speech, Duterte said: “I know that there are those who do not approve of my methods... They say that my methods are unorthodox and verge on illegal... I have seen how illegal drugs destroyed individuals and ruined family relationships... In this fight I ask Congress and the Commission on Human Rights and all others who are similarly situated to allow us a level of governance that is consistent to our mandate.”

In a speech before the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shortly after his inauguration, Duterte said of his reasoning for the drug war: “If you destroy my country, I will kill you. If you destroy our children, I will kill you. If I am asked by anybody, including the Commission on Human Rights, I do not know you.”

the job, because usually the press and police photographers arrive after the killings and there isn’t much risk. But the urgency to get to the crime scene and document it before police rope it off and remove the body and evidence is the risky part, as I soon find out.

Speeding across lanes in light rain, a taxi brakes hard in front of us and suddenly we are fishtailing across several lanes and nearly slam into buildings on the sidewalk. We hit the kerb hard and are all jolted into gasps and then jarring silence as we look at each other. Our car is damaged on one side and the driver doesn’t want to continue. At that point, it is after 3am and we head back to the station. Slightly shaken by the car spin and deaths I’ve witnessed that evening, I decide to call it a night. Jumping into a taxi to head back to my hotel, I leave the photographers waiting on a call out to the next macabre scene as the bodies in Duterte’s drug war keep piling up.

A whole generation of news photographers and police are dealing with the trauma of covering this horror every day. Especially when the victims are sometimes nine-year-old kids, for God’s sake.

Some in Australia might applaud the fierce tactics of Duterte, but opinions usually change when suddenly it is your son, or friend or sister caught up. Drug wars rarely succeed, and it’s likely the one in the Philippines is no exception. ❶

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PHOTO: RORY PIPMAN

NIMA NABILI RAD

**WHAT NIMA NABILI RAD DOES BEST IS MAKE
BEAUTIFUL VIDEOS.
INTERVIEW BY NATHAN HARMOND**

UNDER the strain of everyday sensory input it can be difficult to remember that you need to sit back and smell the roses every once and a while. The moments when we do are always pleasant. Escaping that little patch of earth you were born on and travelling out into the world to sip beers, kick back and enjoy a sunset over a foreign shore – it's a great way to appreciate the little things.

If it were possible to take a vacation in colours, then Nima Nabili Rad, the subject of this Q&A, will take you there. The Australian-based freelance director, cinematographer and producer has been garnering a lot of attention for commercial content lately – particularly for his music and fashion videos. His work has the spirit of someone who has taken time out of the daily grind to appreciate the small things. There's definitely something worldly about his videos; they manage to transport you to an imaginary location, somewhere far away and exciting. ►►

NIMA
NABILI
ARD



IF YOU WERE TO
MIX JAPANESE
MINIMALISM AND
FRENCH
FILMMAKERS'
SENSIBILITIES
YOU'D BE
GETTING CLOSE
TO WHAT MY
STYLE IS.

You left Iran as a child. Tell us about that.

We went to a country where human rights were recognised and exercised. Australia was the first choice because some of our relatives were already there.

When you arrived in Australia, what was it like being a refugee?

The government's treatment of refugees was quite different back then. There was a lot of support and care. Places to live and other services were provided. We got to Australia through proper channels, with a visa etc. I remember it being a great experience despite having come from a war-torn country.

What are your opinions on the current treatment of refugees in Australia at, for example, Manus Island?

I don't really follow politics but as someone who arrived in this country years ago as an immigrant, I would want to be treated and respected like a human being and nothing less.

How do you think your past has influenced your work and who you are today?

My past has shaped myself and my work immensely. It has given me a lot of perspective and emotional intelligence, which I put into my work. It has toughened me as a person and made me want to take on challenges; to not be fazed by setbacks and failures but rather see them as learning experiences and blessings.

How would you describe your distinctive style?

I'm still exploring what my style is and I don't think I've pinpointed it yet entirely, as I love so many different styles of filmmaking and storytelling. But I'd say if you were to mix Japanese minimalism and French filmmakers' sensibilities you'd be getting close to what my style is. There is also often a retro feel to most of my work. And every time someone sees Kubrick's huge influence in my work, it makes my day.

In your travels, is there a place you've visited that stands out. Somewhere unexpected that has genuinely surprised you?

I recently spent some time in Cyprus and most of it took me by surprise, especially the incredible mountain regions. Sometimes you expect a place to look a certain way, but I didn't expect to be so pleasantly surprised by Cyprus's landscape and people.

How has travel and culture influenced your creative outlook?

I could write a book about that and I actually am. I think the more we travel and meet people from different cultures we get to experience different perspectives on life. Different approaches to living and working. And the constant challenge of having to live in places that are not familiar to us makes a

Cont. on page 108



**SMOOTH, ELEGANT, AUSTRALIAN;
STRAIT, FROM TASMANIA**

INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING SPIRITS SINCE 2006

BOTTLED AT SOURCE IN 2018



Cont. from page 106

difference. It's like a giant vault source of creativity that we can tap into. There are so many ideas, inspirations and stories I have absorbed since travelling around the world.

What's your favorite location to shoot?

Vast open landscapes like deserts and tundras, and giant mid- to late-century building blocks. I'm obsessed with lines and grids and 70s and 80s housing estates.

Do you have a favorite holiday spot?

Italy. Lake Como and the Amalfi coast and the mountains.

When did you know you wanted to be a director?

Even as a child I wanted to direct things and I would, either in my head or by creating things. But it wasn't until halfway through my university film course that I realised I wanted to direct.

How do you choose your projects?

A number of factors, from the budget to the people I'm working with, but usually the main deciding factor these days is whether it's something that I would proudly put my name to.

What makes you want to make a music video? Is the budget, the song? The people you're working with?

The budget is definitely a factor. The song and artist comes next and also the potential it has to be recognised well out there. I usually choose who I work with so that's not a

deciding factor.

What is your ultimate creative goal and vision? What's your end goal?

I definitely want to make feature films and short creative pieces. Anything where I can express myself fully and without the need to fulfil a client's vision. Ads are great but they're not my ultimate goal. They're a means to get to the ultimate goal. I also love fashion-related films and content.

Who are your favourite established directors?

Top 5: Stanley Kubrick, Alfred Hitchcock, Hayao Miyazaki, Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg.

Favourite female director?

I have a few. But my favourite film of 2016 was *Raw* by French-Belgian director Julia Ducournau. An astounding study of sexuality and love, seen from a female perspective, which was so refreshing and memorable.

Guilty pleasure film?

Independence Day.

What are you currently working on? Upcoming projects you want to promote?

Unrelated to my film career, I'm writing a self-help book on my travels. A guide to happiness type project. I am hoping to publish it in 2018. 📖



PAUL ANTHONY

paulanthonylabel.com



CREDIT: MIKEL WILLIAM

TERRIFIED TO TRAVEL

TERROR ATTACKS IN PARIS AND LONDON STILL POSE LITTLE THREAT TO THE WANDERING TRAVELLER. GUN VIOLENCE IN THE U.S IS A MUCH HIGHER CAUSE FOR CONCERN FOR THOSE LOOKING TO VISIT THE LAND OF THE FREE.

BY STEPHEN CORBY

I'M often surprised by seemingly intelligent people who spout profoundly stupid things. And yet, I've been listening to politicians, TV "journalists" and shock jocks for years, so there's really no excuse for it.

So I shouldn't have been taken aback when a friend, who can do up his own pants unassisted and excels at a job that requires the ability to look interested during boring meetings, scoffed at my idea of a skiing holiday in Japan. "I won't be going there. Too risky, mate, too scary, too many bombs," he yelped.

I did think for a moment that perhaps he was concerned about unexploded ordnance, or that he thought it was still 1945. Eventually, I twigged: he was worried about what he grandly called the Korean Missile Crisis, and the idea that Trump might kill us all, becoming the first to Tweet-start a war.

It is equally surprising to hear that many people are now afraid to travel to Europe (Paris and London, in particular), threatened by the fear of terrorism. People were willing to

paranoid fear about visiting one country in particular. The US, with its wonderful women, cheap booze and bountiful drugs, is one of my favourite places to visit. But I've started to wonder whether, statistically, it's worth the risk. Not of being killed by an act of terror, but by some random idiot with a legal firearm, or a bagful of them.

The facts are stark: just 71 people were killed in terrorist attacks on US soil between 2005 and 2015, as opposed to the 301,797 who died from gun violence over that same period, according to *PolitiFact*. I searched *Gun Violence Archive* to check the figures and was shocked to find that, not only does the website run a ticker to count the latest shootings, but you can even search results in the last 72 hours – because they are that common. Chillingly, in the three days before I'd logged on, there were more than 250 incidents across the country. Many of those were suicides, accidents and domestic-related matters, which present little danger to a random traveller. It's the mass shootings, the random spree killings by deranged

YOU'RE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO DIE OF FOOD POISONING IN LONDON THAN YOU ARE TO BE TARGETED BY AN EXTREMIST.

travel to the French capital in huge numbers in the past, despite the way local drivers treat pedestrians. And the fact remains you're still hugely more likely to be run over and killed than taken out by a terrorist.

You're also more likely to die of food poisoning in London than you are to be targeted by an extremist.

What this shows, sadly, is that terrorists are doing a fine job of their core goal – albeit at an unacceptable cost—which is to instil terror in the common folk. The fear of dying in such a brutal way – much like the fear of being attacked by a shark – is far larger than the statistics suggest it should be.

Since the 2002 Bali bombings, in which 202 people—many of them Aussie – were killed, more than 110 Australians have died overseas in terrorists attacks. It's a horrible number, but not a large one. At home, more Australians have died from domestic violence (more than 318 in 2014 and 2015) than were killed by terrorists on home soil in the past 20 years (just three).

Personally, I love travelling too much to ever think about giving in to terrorists. And yet, I've felt a shamefully

gun owners, that are the real worry.

There were 372 mass shootings in the US in 2015 alone, killing a staggering 475 people and wounding 1870. (There were also 64 school shootings over the same period, which is even sadder.)

And you really can be accidentally killed anywhere – watching *The Dark Knight Rises* in a theatre in Colorado (12 dead), dancing in a nightclub in Orlando (49 killed), or fleeing a hail of more than 5000 rounds of ammunition at a country-music festival in Las Vegas (59 dead).

I admit I have worried about gun violence in the States prior to the latest incidents, but then, it was always more a matter of avoiding road rage and talking smack to the kind of men who like to wear stockings on their heads. You felt if you kept your nose clean and your wits about you, you could avoid a lead injection.

Today, though, in a country where gun violence is on the rise and politicians are too gun shy about stopping it, you really have to think twice about whether the world's best bad food, dive bars and cheap shopping are worth the inherent risk. **1**

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES SHROUDED IN MYSTERY HAVE LONG CAPTURED THE PUBLIC'S IMAGINATION.

BY TOBIAS HANDKE

EVERYONE loves a good mystery and none have puzzled mankind more than the Bermuda Triangle. A loosely defined triangular area that covers between 500,000 and 1.5 million square miles in the North Atlantic Ocean between Florida, Puerto Rico and Bermuda, the Devil's Triangle has claimed the lives of hundreds of people in unexplained circumstances for centuries.

One of the most travelled shipping lanes in the world – with all manner of private and commercial ships and aircraft passing through on a daily basis – the Bermuda Triangle has been a hive of unsolved disappearances and inexplicable occurrences dating as far back as 1492, when Christopher Columbus made his first voyage to the New World. The explorer reported erratic compass readings and described seeing a great flame of fire crash into the ocean one night, with strange lights appearing in the distance some weeks later. Since then, 75 planes and hundreds of ships have gone missing in the Triangle.

The first recorded tragedy in the region occurred in 1800, when the USS Pickering and its 90 crew members disappeared. On March 4, 1918, carrying 10,800 tons of manganese ore, the USS *Cyclops* and its some 300 passengers and crew members completely vanished. No distress call was sent and the ship was never found, making it the single largest loss of life in US Navy history not related to combat.

On December 5, 1945, a squadron of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers undertaking training suffered problems with their navigation systems over the Triangle and disappeared off the face of the planet. It's believed the 14 airmen of Flight 19 got lost and were forced to ditch into the ocean, although no wreckage has ever been found. The following day, a Martin PBM Mariner patrol bomber sent out to search for Flight 19 also vanished. A few years later on December 28, 1948, a Douglas DC-3 airliner containing a three-person crew and 29 passengers travelling from San Juan to Miami disappeared mid-flight.



Even as recent as February 2017, a Turkish Airlines flight bound for Havana was forced to turn back after suffering electrical problems over the mysterious waters.

The disappearance of Flight 19 was very well documented and sparked a keen interest in the Triangle, with journalists quick to report mysterious happenings in the region. But it wasn't until 1964 that the infamous stretch of sea got its name, when Vincent Gaddis coined the term "Bermuda Triangle" in a cover story for *Argosy* magazine in 1964. Gaddis was adamant supernatural elements were behind the disappearances, and expanded on his ideas in his wildly inaccurate but entertaining book *Invisible Horizon: True Mysteries of the Sea*.

Soon, every man and his dog had a theory as to why the Bermuda Triangle had become the poster location for unexplained activity. Paranormal writer Charles Berlitz claimed the lost city of Atlantis was at the bottom of the sea and leftover technology from the missing civilisation affected navigational equipment. Others claimed the Bermuda Triangle was a wormhole sucking up passing aircraft and vessels, while a long-held theory states aliens are behind it all.

Conspiracy theories aside, most of the disappearances can be explained. The territory covered by the Triangle is notorious for violent weather, and many ships and planes have gone missing during hurricanes and storms. The Gulf Stream also passes through the Atlantic Ocean and can cause large waves and shifting currents, forcing some ships to drift off course and become submerged. Most tellingly, human error is cited in official inquiries as the main reason for any loss in the Triangle. And as far as the US Coast Guard is concerned, "No extraordinary factors have ever been identified."

And yet, until a definitive reason can be given for every disappearance, the Bermuda Triangle will continue to be shrouded in mystery, with alien abductions still up for discussion. ❶

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1



LUGGAGE

HOOK & ALBERT

US travel outfitters Hook & Albert have been ensuring dapper wanderers stay stylish between hotel rooms since 2011 – and with each collection they drop, we find another reason to splash our cash. We're avid jet-setters here in the PH office, and having gone through more dodgy luggage than you can shake a rolled-up Black Label at, we're well aware that investing in the good stuff goes a LONG way.

Black and gold is a classic combination that says "I am a man" and "I probably have money", so these examples were an easy choice. Happy travels.

2



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Usually the last thing blokes consider adding to their collection, a great garment bag is the difference between travelling with nice clothes, and your clothes actually looking nice when you arrive. You'll wonder how you ever went anywhere without one.

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3



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Approx. AU \$190

LUGGAGE

FREITAG

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While we're usually fans of all things shiny and new, this is some of the best re-purposing out there, and the fact that each piece is unique (making it easily identifiable on the baggage carousel, for one) is primo.

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WINTER IN NEW YORK

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\$189 - David Jones



JOSEPH GLASTONBURY OVERCOAT

Take a cue from the Brits and get a coat that goes past your knees if you're going to hit the snow and don't want to look like a cross between the Michelin Man and a box of Faber-Castells (seriously, what's with skiers looking like that?).

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\$845 - RM Williams

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It's time to bring back the old-school braces on classic denim. Clips are tackier than your nanna's porcelain kitten collection; a pair like this with proper buttons makes all the difference, and will take you from the Californian goldfields of old to the hippest of hipster boroughs in NYC.

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PLAYER ATTIRE

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www.gentsac.com



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03/18

ANOTHER WORLD ISA BY BEN TSUI

THIS Martian-looking landscape is Fossil Falls, located in California's Sierra Nevada. The deep chasms were formed millions of years ago by lava falls that have become 'fossilised' and worn smooth over the eons. If you look closely at these photos, you'll also find there's an incredibly attractive woman taking her clothes off in each shot.















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WHY SUCCESSFUL WOMEN LOSE OUT IN THE DATING GAME

WHY HIGH-ACHIEVING WOMEN IN THEIR THIRTIES ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL MEN **BY BETTINA ARNDT**

WHERE are all the good men? That's all womens' magazines seem to talk about these days. The number of wonderful single women in their thirties who can't find men. Women astonished that men don't seem to be around when they decide it's time to settle down. Women telling men to "man up" and stop shying away from commitment.

But there is another conversation going on; a fascinating exchange about what is happening from the male point of view. Much of it thrives on the internet, in YouTube vlogs or in the so-called 'manosphere'. Here, you will find men cheerfully – even triumphantly – blogging about their experiences. They have cause for celebration, you see. They've discovered a profound change has taken place in the mating game and, to their surprise, they are the winners.

Dalrock (dalrock.wordpress.com) is typical: "Today's unmarried twenty-something women have given men an ultimatum: 'I'll marry when I'm ready, take it or leave it.' This, of course, is their right. But ultimatums are a risky thing, because there is always a possibility the other side will decide to leave it.

So there aren't enough men with degrees to go around, and many of the other available men fall short of what these well-educated women have come to expect. Although there are similar numbers of single males and females in their thirties, many of the available men have only high-school education and earn low incomes, or are unemployed.

The high expectations of these professional women is a big part of the story. Many high-achieving women simply aren't interested in Mr Average. They've swallowed the L'Oréal line, "Because you're worth it!" These women want alpha males, men who are just as successful as they are and, ideally, tall and handsome as well.

The problem, according to male commentators, is many of these women are used to sharing the attention of the most highly desirable men. During their twenties, women compete for Mr Big, many readily sharing a bed with sporty, attractive, confident men, while ordinary men miss out. As Whiskey puts it at whiskeys-place.blogspot.com.au: "Joe Average Beta Male is about as desirable to women as a cold bowl of oatmeal."

There's some research from American college campuses

THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF THESE PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IS A BIG PART OF THE STORY. MANY HIGH-ACHIEVING WOMEN SIMPLY AREN'T INTERESTED IN MR AVERAGE.

In the next decade we will witness the end result of this game of marriage chicken."

The endgame Dalrock warns about is already in play for hordes of unmarried professional women – the well-coiffed lawyers, bankers and other success stories. Many thought they could put off marriage and families until their thirties, having devoted their twenties to education, establishing careers and playing the field. But was their decade of dating a strategic mistake?

The crisis for single women in this age group seeking a mate is very real. About a quarter of women in their thirties don't have a partner, according to the latest 2016 census statistics. The challenge is greatest for high-achieving women in their thirties looking for equally successful men. Some years back, sociologist Genevieve Heard, then working at Monash University, revealed that almost one in four of all degree-educated women in their thirties will miss out on same-age, well-educated men.

And the gap keeps widening. More than 40 per cent of females aged 25–34 now have degrees, compared to 29 per cent of males – up 11 per cent for women and 7 per cent for men since 2006.

showing 20 per cent of males—the most attractive ones—get 80 per cent of the sex, according to an analysis by Susan Walsh, a former management consultant who wrote about the issue on her dating website, hookingupsmart.com.

That leaves a lot of beta men spending their twenties out in the cold. Greg, a 38-year-old writer from Melbourne, started adult life shy and lonely. "In my twenties, the women had the total upper hand. They could make or break you with one look in a club or bar. They had the choice of men, sex was on tap and guys like me went home alone, red-faced, defeated and embarrassed. The girls only wanted to go for the cool guys with good looks, outgoing personalities and money. Sporty types. The kind of guys who owned the room, while us quiet ones were ignored."

He barely had a date through much of his twenties and gave up on women. But then he spent time overseas, gained more confidence, learnt how to dress well and hit his early thirties. "I suddenly started to get asked out by women, aged 19 through to 40. The floodgates burst open for me. I actually dated five women at once, amazing my flatmates by often bedding three to four of my casual dates each week. It is a great time as a ►►



male in your thirties, when you start getting more female attention and sex than you could ever have dreamt of in your twenties."

It's not surprising that men in this situation will take advantage of the bounty on offer. Here's a comment on one of the online chat sites from Greenlander, an apparently extremely successful engineer in his late thirties. In his early adult life, he was unable to "get the time of day from women". Now, he's only interested in women under 27.

"The women I know in their early thirties are delusional," he says. "I sometimes seduce them and sleep with them just because I know how to play them so well. It's just too easy. They're tired of the cock carousel, and they see a guy like me as the perfect beta to settle down with before their eggs dry out ... When I get tired of them, I just delete their numbers from my cell phone and stop taking their calls ... It doesn't really hurt them that much: at this point they're used to pump & dump!"

Greenlander's analysis is echoed by Australian singles, both male and female, who report many of the unattached males are simply interested in playing the field. "It's wall-to-wall arseholes out there," says Penny, a 31-year-old lawyer. She is stunned by how hard it is to meet suitable men willing to commit. "I'm horrified by the number of gorgeous, independent and successful women my age who can't meet a decent man."

Penny acknowledges part of the problem is her own expectations; her generation of women was brought up wanting too much. "We were told we were special, we could do anything and the world was our oyster." And having spent her twenties

ready to start our lives, only to discover a cavernous room at the tail end of a party, most of the men gone already, some having never shown up – and those who remain are leering by the cheese table, or are, you know, the ones you don't want to go out with."

Many women are missing out on their fairytale ending. Their assumption is that when the time is right their dream man will be waiting. The thirties are worrying years for high-achieving women who long for marriage and children – of course, not all do – as they face their rapidly closing reproductive window surrounded by men who see no rush to settle down. Of course, many women eventually find a mate, often ending up with divorced men. The complications of that second-marriage market, where men come complete with ex-wives and sometimes stepchildren, was not what they expected. That was never part of the plan.

Many really struggle with the fact that they aren't in a position to be too choosy. American author Lori Gottlieb gave a painfully honest account of that process in her book *Marry Him: The Case for Settling for Mr Good Enough*.

"Maybe we need to get over ourselves," she writes. The 40-year-old single mother enlisted a team of advisers who helped her see that while she was conducting her long search for the perfect man – Prince Charming or nobody – her market value had dropped through the floor.

"Our generation of women is constantly told to have high self-esteem, but it seems that the women themselves are at

MANY WOMEN ARE MISSING OUT ON THEIR FAIRYTALE ENDING. THEIR ASSUMPTION IS THAT WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT THEIR DREAM MAN WILL BE WAITING.

dating alpha males, she expected them to still be around when she finally decided to get serious.

But these men go fast, with many fishing outside their pond, some choosing younger women and others partners who offer something besides career success. Some doctors still marry nurses, and lawyers their secretaries. The most attractive, successful men can take their pick from women their own age or younger women who are happy to settle early. Almost one in three degree-educated 35-year-old men marry or live with women aged 30 or under, according to ABS statistics.

"I can't believe how many men my age are only interested in younger women," wailed Gail, a 34-year-old advertising executive reporting on her first search through men's profiles on dating site RSVP. She was shocked to find many men in their mid-thirties had even set up their profiles to refuse mail from women their own age.

Talking to many women like her, it's intriguing how many look back on past relationships where they let good men get away because, at the time, they weren't ready. American journalist Kate Bolick wrote in *The Atlantic* about breaking off her three-year relationship with a man she described as "intelligent, good-looking, loyal and kind". She acknowledged "there was no good reason to end things" yet, at the time, she was convinced something was missing. That was 11 years before she wrote her article, by which time she was 39 and facing grim choices.

"We've arrived at the top of the staircase," she wrote, "finally

risk of ego-tripping themselves out of romantic connection," she wrote. She acknowledged she made a mistake not looking for a spouse in her twenties, when she was most desirable. She advised thirty-something women to look for Mr Good Enough before they have even less choice. "They are with an '8' but they want a '10'. But then suddenly they're 40 and can only get a '5'!"

That's a "5" judged by her own unrealistic expectations about the type of man she hoped to attract.

Her point hits home, highlighting the problem when women delay too long their search for a serious relationship. That delay has set up a very different dating and marriage market, with delighted men very much the beneficiaries. Many single men in their thirties can't believe their good luck.

Jamie, a 30-year-old Sydney barrister, finds himself spoilt for choice. Like many of his friends, he's finding women actively pursuing him, asking him out, cooking him elaborate meals, buying him presents. "Oh, you're a *barrister*," they say, with eyes sparkling.

While many of his mates are playing the field, determined to enjoy this unexpected attention, Jamie is ready to settle down. He's very wary of the *Sex and the City*-type girls convinced that they are so special, but he's confident he will soon find someone with her feet on the ground. "I'm lucky to be in a buyer's market," he says, unashamedly smug. **●**

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THERE'S LIGHT IN DARK TOURISM

EVERY YEAR TOURISTS FLOCK TO ZONES OF DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND HUMAN MISERY.
WHAT IS OUR MORBID FASCINATION WITH 'DARK TOURISM'? BY ELLE HARDY

OVER the past ten years, there have been times when I've thought I'd become a marauding pub yarn. Among other things, I have photographed Chernobyl's abandonment porn, turned up to Kim Il-sung's mausoleum still drunk from the night before, and visited Saddam's former torture prison in Iraqi Kurdistan. Doing this for some combination of work and leisure sounds depraved, and has led to many midnight reckonings. Am I a sadistic voyeur, or does this curiosity help me make this stupid rock we're on a tiny bit better?

Dark tourism – tourism in sites of tragedy – has come under a lot of fire this last decade or so, probably thanks to some combination of the internet, new parts of the world opening up, and the ability to fulfil the perpetual search for meaning and understanding.

PJ O'Rourke noted in his classic, *Holidays in Hell*, that rather than a foreign correspondent, he had been a "trouble tourist" who was "bored by ordinary travel", spending his time "going to see insurrections, stupidities, political crises, civil disturbances and other human folly because... it's fun."

His brashness on the subject is right, and he doesn't just

of Hurricane Katrina might provide a few unscrupulous locals some cash, but it's crass and disgusting (not to mention it's New Orleans – go have a drink with them, for Christ's sake). Few of us, by definition, are trailblazers; so if your moral compass isn't calibrated, it's not hard to research whether locals really want you there. Hell, you can probably ask them yourself.

There is, of course, a base economic argument in favour of unrestricted, hedonistic travel, but it's boring and murky and misses the point. The counter-argument that your money on visas, tour guides, flights and hotels is probably funnelled directly to the regime is woefully myopic, too. Pontification from our iPhones, constructed from human misery, isn't going to get us anywhere.

Dark tourism has always been – and will always be – present, because the impulse to confront our own mortality will never disappear. But it's not a question of being ethically neutral. Making connections sounds like a laughable riff on LinkedIn, but it is, undoubtedly, a force for good. It has to be, otherwise our existence is meaningless.

Of course, I'm bloody lucky to have been able to travel to

**DARK TOURISM HAS ALWAYS BEEN – AND WILL ALWAYS BE –
PRESENT, BECAUSE THE IMPULSE TO CONFRONT OUR OWN
MORTALITY WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR.**

mean for those of us who are stupid enough to write for a living. As a starting point, it's damn good to be honest about our ethical purity; if we were all as high-minded as we'd like to profess, most of us would be naked, starving, bored, and sure as hell not flying to places our friends have to Google.

Professor John Lennon of Glasgow Caledonian University, who helped coin the term "dark tourism", says it "may be a recent growth area for the travel industry but it's not a new phenomenon." He points out that even in the Dark Ages pilgrimage to sites of religious martyrdom were common. More recently, there were tours to the bloodied war fields in the Napoleonic and American Civil Wars, and relic chasing following the sinking of the Titanic.

"'Dark tourism' sites are testaments to the consistent failure of humanity to temper our worst excesses and, managed well, they can help us to learn from the darkest elements of our past," he says. "But we have to guard ourselves from the voyeuristic and exploitative streak that is evident at so many of them."

Professor Lennon thinks the line of what is acceptable might be chronological distance. Rubber-necking in the aftermath

these places and, like PJ O'Rourke, to somehow have managed to turn it into a career; trying to give life to the things our mass media has turned anodyne.

I've long joked about something I believe to be entirely true: I have a stunning lack of imagination, so I need to go and see things for myself. I think back – constantly – to the day when, at Amna Suraka Prison in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, a Kurdish freedom fighter happened to be showing his family where he was tortured, where he carved graffiti into the wall, and explaining how he managed to lever his legs in the isolation cell to see the flying birds that kept him from killing himself. But bearing witness is only a starting point.

A fascination with human suffering is a stone so heavy, it casts an endless shadow. But the alternative, where trauma is hidden in shame and curiosity for the human condition is absent, is equally horrific. At a time when the world has never been so connected and we've never felt more alienated, seeking to apply context to our lives, to allow history to reverberate through us, and interact with others, is an entirely beautiful thing – even in the darkest possible places. **1**



WHY RIGHT-WING GIRLS ARE BETTER GIRLFRIENDS

THEY'RE HOTTER, THEY'RE SMARTER, AND THEY DON'T HATE MEN. SO WHY AREN'T YOU DATING ONE? **BY DAISY COUSENS**

In modern dating, everyone is disposable. The process of courting is now a parade of sloppy hook-ups and bruised egos. And while I know you guys find a string of filthy one-nighters a whole lot of fun, eventually a fella is going to want to settle down. But in today's world of culturally condoned misandry, where do you start?

Everywhere you look, angry feminists are shrieking about "male privilege" and "toxic masculinity". You can't smile absent-mindedly at a woman without being accused of sexual harassment. As for telling a lady she looks nice – forget it. You're objectifying her, and perpetuating something called "rape culture". It seems everything you instinctively want to do to make women feel good is wrong, rude, or threatening.

So where do you find a well-adjusted lady, who is as much CEO material as wife material? Where are all the smart, confident women, with clear-cut career goals, who are also happy to pop out a couple of kids? Well, you won't find them in gender studies departments, or donning pussyhats. If you want a girl who's a package deal, ditch those leftist-feminazis and try your luck with an empowered, freedom-focussed, right-wing glamour girl.

maintain perfect make-up, you don't lose your Woman Card. Femininity and masculinity complement each other, so we're OK with you being men. Unlike left-feminists, we don't inherently hate you, or think your masculine tendencies are "toxic". As such, we'll always accept you, rather than insisting you capitulate to the behaviour feminism prescribes for men.

Speaking of masculinity, we know the kind of primal kick you get out of providing for your lady. We're also aware of how rude it is to de-ball you in the process. You want to pick up the bill? If that makes you feel manly, go ahead. However, we're capitalists. We don't expect regular handouts. So we'll make a mental note to shout you next time, with our own hard-earned money. All the while enjoying the big, goofy grin you guys get when you realise you've impressed us, of course.

Along with being prettier, and better company, we're also better at sex. According to a 2016 *YouGov* survey, the further right you lean, the more sexually satisfied you are. This is because, funnily enough, a more conservative, traditionalist attitude to intercourse actually leads to superior sex.

WHERE ARE ALL THE SMART, CONFIDENT WOMEN, WITH CLEAR-CUT CAREER GOALS, WHO ARE ALSO HAPPY TO POP OUT A COUPLE OF KIDS?

"Whoa!" I hear you exclaim. "Aren't they all religious nuts, and aren't there only, like, five of them?" Hell, no. You just don't hear from us that much, because we can't be bothered dealing with the cry-screaming of left-feminists when they realise we've broken ranks. There are plenty of us, and we do life better than leftie ladies. So you should be dating us. Exclusively.

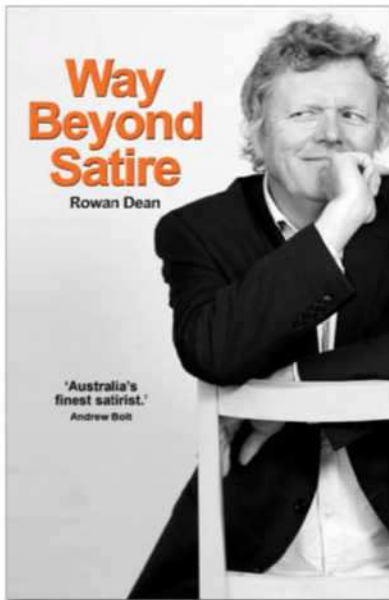
Why are we better? First, we're demonstrably hotter. A 2017 study in the *Journal of Public Economics* found conservatives in Australia, Europe and the US are generally better looking than lefties. A 2012 survey from UCLA garnered similar results. And for anecdotal proof, a comparison of the women on Fox News versus CNN will do just fine. Our inherent hotness comes from the fact we're not ashamed of being female, thus not ashamed of being feminine.

Right-wing women don't equate femininity with inferiority. We love being women, and see ourselves as different but equal to men. We know if you wear pink, exercise and

Traditionalism doesn't mean we're all good little Christian virgins. We're just cluey enough to realise that, for women, random hook-ups are usually awkward, painful and devoid of orgasm. So what's the point?

Instead, we'd rather practice (intensively) on one person for an extended period of time. Favouring monogamous relationships over hedonistic promiscuity makes us more comfortable trying new (and kinkier) things. You could even argue because we see sexual partners as valuable, not disposable, we're less likely to cheat. And let's be honest: having fewer sexual partners means less risk of contracting an STI. Handy, right?

So if you want a girlfriend whose idea of empowerment is wallowing in victimhood, by all means, join your local socialist club. But if you want a woman who is empowered and career-driven, also family-oriented, hot, sexually savvy, and will love you wholeheartedly for all the things that make you a man, take a sharp right turn, and keep heading in that luscious direction. **●**

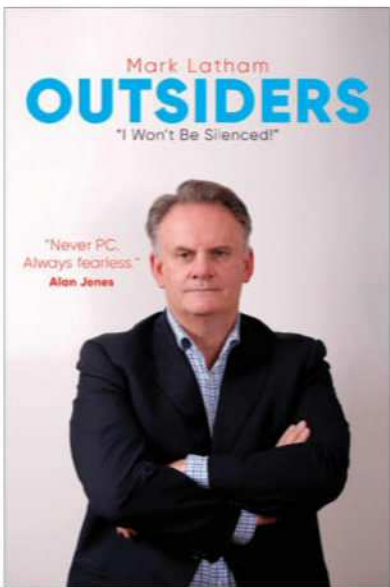


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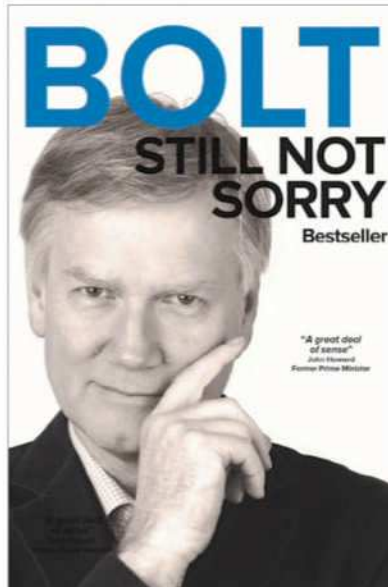


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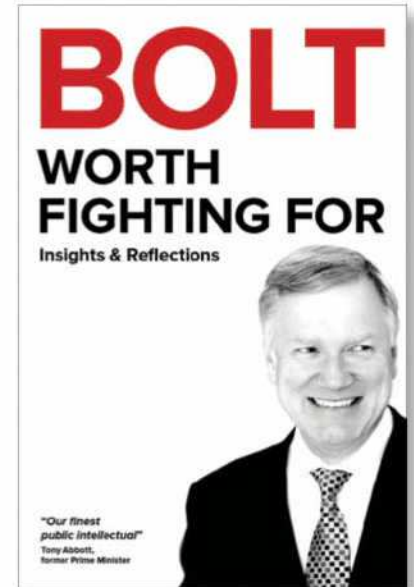
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